

KENICHI SONODA PRESENTS

ガンズミスキャッツ

DARK HORSE MANGA

VOLUME 1

GUNSMITH CATS

R E V I S E D E D I T I O N

健一 園田

Vol.
1





== RALLY VINCENT AND MINNIE-MAY ==

GUNSMITH CATS

REVISED 1 EDITION



publisher
MIKE RICHARDSON

editor
TIM ERVIN

book design
KEITH WOOD

art director
LIA RIBACCHI

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DARK HORSE MANGA™

園田健一

Presented by
KENICHI SONODA



RALLY VINCENT AND MINNIE MAY

GUNSMITH CATS

REVISED 1 EDITION

Translation
DANA LEWIS & TOREN SMITH

Lettering and retouch
STUDIO CUTIE

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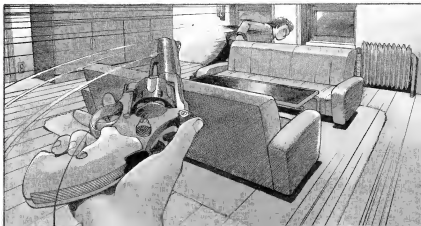
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CHAPTER 1

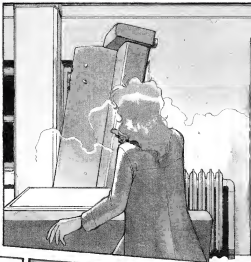
FEEDING

TROUBLE







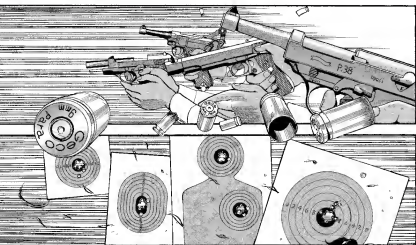




S&W M-19 (6") AMMO: 38+P BLACK TALONS







WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING,
MINNIE-
MAY!

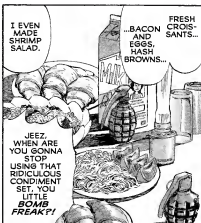
GEE, RALLY,
DO I FEEL
A LITTLE
EXCITE-
MENT
HERE...?!

I'VE
BEEN
CALLING
YOU FOR
BREAK-
FAST
FOR
ABOUT
TEN
MINUTES
!!



AND IF I WERE
YOU, MISS PISTOL
MOMMA, I
WOULDN'T
TALK, SO—
WHAT'S
THE NEW
JOB?

THAT'S
"BOMB
SPE-
CIALIST"
TO YOU,
DEARIE.



I EVEN
MADE
SHRIMP
SALAD.

...BACON
AND
EGGS,
HASH
BROWNS...
FRESH
CROIS-
SANTS...

JEEZ,
WHEN ARE
YOU GONNA
STOP
USING THAT
RIDICULOUS
CONDIMENT
SET, YOU
LITTLE
BOMB
FREAK?!



COKE
DEALER
JUMPS
BAIL, I
FIND HIM.
I GET
PAID,
SIMPLE.

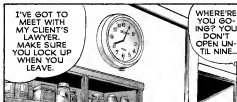
PINK
APPLE
DRESSING,
HUN...
SQUIRT!



AND
BESIDES, MY
REAL JOB IS
GUNSMITHING.
YOU MIGHT
RECALL.

IF ALL I WENT
AFTER WERE
BIG OL' SHARKS,
I'D END UP
FISH FOOD
PRONTO.

A PRETTY
SMALL FISH
FOR A HOT-
SHOT BOUNTY
HUNTER LIKE
RALLY
VINCENT, HUH?



I'VE GOT TO
MEET WITH
MY CLIENT'S
LAWYER.
MAKE SURE
YOU LOCK UP
WHEN YOU
LEAVE.

WHERE'RE
YOU GO-
ING? YOU
DON'T
OPEN UN-
TIL NINE...

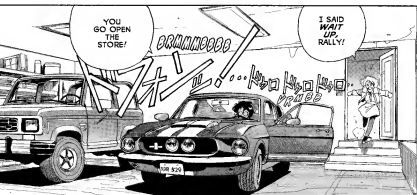


OH, MY.
YOU THINK
YOUR "REAL"
JOB WILL
EVER MAKE
YOU HALF
AS MUCH AS
YOUR HOBBY?

I
PREFER
MY
COFFEE
WITHOUT
SAR-
CASM!



WAIT!
HOLD ON!
I'M
COMING
TOO!







HE DIDN'T GET OUT ON BAIL. HE PROMISED TO TURN STATE'S EVIDENCE.

WASTE OF GOOD BAIL MONEY.

SO LAST NIGHT THIS GUY KILLS TWO OFFICERS AND GETS AWAY... RIGHT?



IF WE GET A GUILTY VERDICT, WE'LL SHUT DOWN HARPER'S WHOLE COCAINE NETWORK.

THE JOHN HARPER TRIAL?



BUT WHEN THEY PULLED HIM IN HE WAS CLEAN, NOT A GRAIN ON HIM.

DODGE WAS RUNNING HALF THE COKE IN CHICAGO. A BIG TIME MIDDLE-MAN.



GENEROUS IN-DEED. BUT STAMPING OUT THE DRUG TRADE IS THIS CITY'S NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.

COMPLETELY? THAT'S KIND OF ODD, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?



THAT'S RIGHT. THEY OFFERED TO DROP CHARGES COMPLETELY IN EXCHANGE FOR TESTIMONY.

YEAH, SO I HEARD. BUT DIDN'T THEY PUT HIM AWAY FOR TWO YEARS ANYWAY ON SOME OUTSTANDING WARRANT...A POSSESSION CHARGE?



RALLY, OVER HERE!

IF DODGE TESTIFIES THEY CAN TAKE DOWN **JOHN HARPER**. TAKE DOWN THE KINGPIN FOR THE WHOLE GREAT LAKES REGION.



PLUS
EXPENSES,
MM?
♥

PAYMENT ON
DELIVERY, ALIVE
AND KICKING--
TEN THOUSAND
DOLLARS.
YOU'LL HAVE
HIM IN TIME.

I LIKE
THE SMELL
OF THIS CASE.
TOO. SEND
ME COPIES
OF ALL THE
COURT PAPERS.
ALL THE
DOCUMENTS
YOU'VE GOT
SO FAR.

OK!

THE GUN-
SMITHING
BIZ CAN
TAKE A
BREAK!

ALL
RIGHT!
WHAT A SCORE!
TEN THOUSAND
BUCKS AND
HE DOESN'T
BLINK!

YOU'RE
USING YOUR
FULL RIG?
AGAINST
ONE DUMB
COKE-
HEAD?

...NOT TO
MENTION
GET MY
GEAR.
WE'LL
STOP BY
THERE
FIRST.

OH, YEAH.
WE NEED TO
HANG OUT
THE "GONE
FISHING"
SIGN...

BY THE TIME HE
OR SHE GOT
THROUGH THE
DOOR, DODGE WAS
HALFWAY OUT
THE WINDOW.

JUDGING FROM
THE BULLET
TRAJECTORIES
AND BLOOD STAINS,
I FIGURE A THIRD
PARTY WASTED
THE COPS.

HUH
?!

NOT
HIM.
DEAR.

DIDN'T
YOU SEE
THE HOLES
IN THE
GLASS?



↑
HBBB

AFTER SHOOTING
THE SAME ROUNDS
FROM A SIMILAR
WEAPON, WHOEVER IT
WAS COULD STUFF THE
EMPTY BRASS INTO
ONE OF THOSE
STIFF'S GUNS.

THE
FINAL
FORENSICS
AREN'T
IN YET.
AND
BESIDES...

THIRTY-
EIGHT
CALIBER,
THEY
SAID...

BUT THE BULLETS
IN THE SOFA, AND
THE WINDOW...
THEY WERE ALL
FROM THE
COPS' GUNS.

I
DON'T
LIKE
IT.

BUT THIS MUCH
I DO KNOW--
IT'S DAMNED WEIRD
FOR A LAWYER WHO'S
SUPPOSED TO BE
ACTING IN HIS CLIENT'S
BEST INTEREST TO GO
AROUND TALKING LIKE
THIS DODGE GUY IS
GUILTY AS HELL.

WELL,
MAYBE
I'M OVER-
ANALYZING
THIS.

IT WOULDN'T
HOLD UP
FOR LONG,
BUT IT
WOULD
BUY THEM
SOME
TIME.

GUN SMITH.CAT

SHOOTING RANGE

SKREEK

BOOM BOOM

I GUESS
IT COULD
MEAN
THAT.

W-WAIT JUST A
SEC! THAT MEANS
YOU'RE GOING UP
AGAINST SOME
PRO HIT MAN OR
SOMETHING?





WALTHER PP (9mm) |



WE
HEAR
YOU'RE
AFTER
DODGE.

HOLD
IT
RIGHT
THERE,
VIN-
CENT.



SAME
DIFF.
BABE.
BAD
MOVE.

KCHIK

I ONLY
SIGNED
THE
PAPERS
TWENTY
MINUTES
AGO.

TECHNI-
CALLY,
I'M NOT
AFTER
HIM
YET.



KLIK!



WE JUST
WANT YOU
OUTTA
ACTION
UNTIL WE
GET A
CHANCE TO
WHACK
HIM...

X
CHAK

HEY,
WE'RE
NOT
GOING TO
WHACK
YOU.



?!?

KA-KUNK





OH,
SHIT!

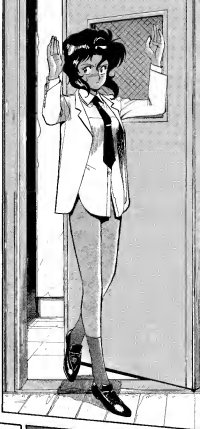
ITHACA
PUMP
AC-TION!

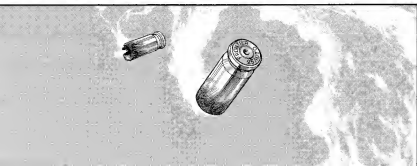


MAKE
THAT
HOLY
SHIT!











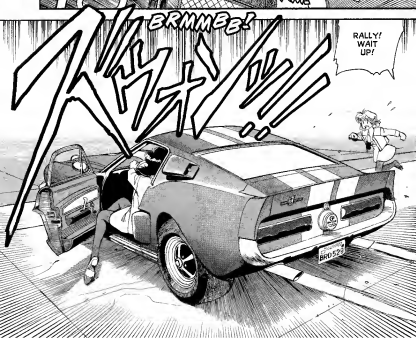
COLT LAWMAN MK 3 (2nd)





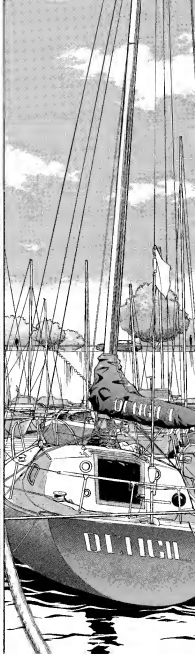
C'MON,
GIVE
ME A
BREAK.











OR
MAYBE
THERE'S
SOME-
BODY
ELSE...

OR MAYBE
THE COPS
THEMSELVES
TO COVER
THEIR UGLY
BUTTS...

MAKES
SENSE.
THAT WAY
DODGE
IS SAFE,
AND HE
DOESN'T
HAVE TO
PAY US A
DIME.

JONES THE
LAWYER, TO
HELP THE
POLICE?
GET TO HIS
MAN BEFORE
HARPER'S
HIT SQUAD
DOES?

EITHER
WHEN
I WAS OFF
MEETING
JONES,
OR IN THE
PARKING
LOT AT THE
SHOP.

WHEN
COULD
SOME-
ONE
HAVE
BUGGED
MY
CAR...?



IF THEY'VE
ALREADY
GOT HIM,
I MIGHT
AS WELL
GIVE UP.



IN
ANY
CASE...

ONE OF JOHN
HARPER'S
GOONS...?
UH-UH--THEY
FIGURED THEIR
PALS WOULD
TAKE ME OUT,
SO WHY BUG
THE CAR?



JUST DRIVE,
LADY, AND
YOU WON'T
GET--









DESERT EAGLE (ISRAELI, GAS RECOIL). THIS VERSION CHAMBERED FOR .44 MAGNUM.

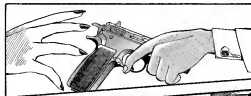




YEAH...
HAND
IT OVER.



YOU
TOUCH
HER
AND—



BONNIE,
DEAR...
YOU
WANTED
MY GUN?









OH HI, RALLY.



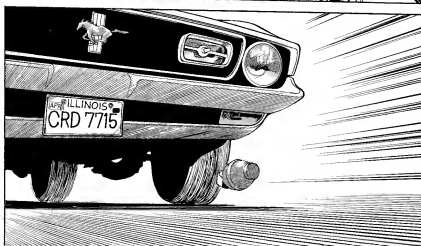
PROVE IT!

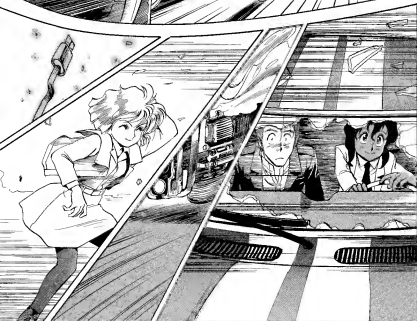
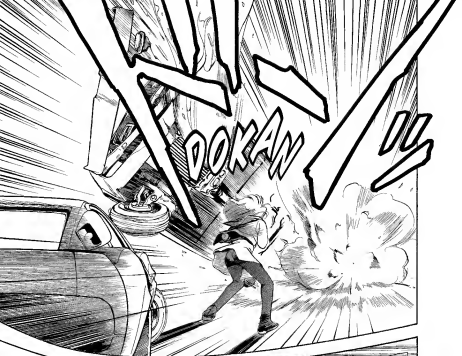


RALLY ALWAYS NEEDS MINNIE-MAY, HMM?













YOU GOT
IT. HE USED
THE CHARMING
BONNIE
HERSELF TO
TRY AND GRAB
DODGE'S
COKE.

YEP!

JONES...
THAT
PORKER
LAWYER?



THEN JONES
LEAKED WORD TO
HARPER'S CRONIES
THAT WE'D BEEN
HIRED, AND
LET THEM TRACK
US DOWN
THEMSELVES.

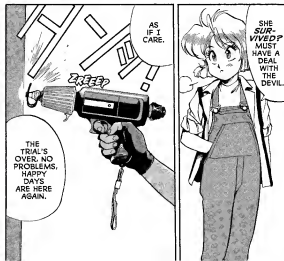
THAT
WAS
BONNIE,
TOO.

AND
THE
BUG?



SHE
CRACKED AT
THE
HOSPITAL
AND
SPILLED
THE
BEANS--
FULL
CONFESSION.

JONES TIPS
BONNIE OFF
ON WHERE TO
FIND DODGE'S
WIFE...BONNIE
FENCES THE
COKE, SPLITS
THE TAKE
WITH JONES.



AS
IF I
CARE.

ZREEP

THE
TRIAL'S
OVER. NO
PROBLEMS,
HAPPY
DAYS
ARE HERE
AGAIN.

SHE
SUR-
VIVED?
MUST
HAVE A
DEAL
WITH
THE
DEVIL.

THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I MEANT.
THE MONEY!
G-A-G-H!



JONES
GETS THREE
YEARS, AND
HARPER'S
OFF TO
THE MARION
PEN FOR
TWENTY.

SO...?
SO
WHAT
HAP-
PENED?

OH,
THAT STUFF.
I STUCK IT
TO JONES'S
FIRM FOR NINE
THOUSAND
BUCKS IN
EXPENSES.
INCLUDING
AUTO REPAIRS.



OH
OH...

YOU
REMEM-
BERED.
HUH...?



SO,
WHEN ARE
WE GONNA
HIT THE
MALL?

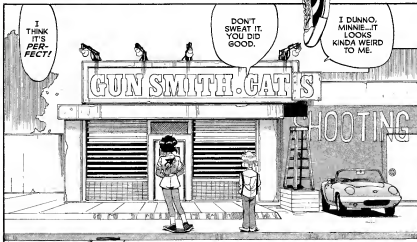
I
THINK
IT'S
PER-
FECT!

GUN SMITH.CAT'S

DON'T
SWEAT IT.
YOU DID
GOOD.

I DUNNO,
MINNIE...IT
LOOKS
KINDA WEIRD
TO ME.

SHOOTING



CHAPTER1 END

CHAPTER 2

REVOLVER

FREAK



WELL,
UMM...YOU
DID SAY
THAT YOU
WANTED IT
CUSTOMIZED
FOR HUNTING.
I FIGURED
THAT MEANT
YOU'D
ONLY BE
USING THE
SCOPE.

THERE'S
NO
FRONT
SIGHT.

SO...
HOW'S
THE
SCOPE
CHECK
OUT?

NAW.
THIS'LL
DO.

I CAN
PUT ONE
ON FOR
YOU IN
ABOUT
THREE
DAYS...



I'VE
POPPED
THE
CYLINDER.
RIGHT?

KEEP
YER
PANTY-
HOSE
ON, SISTER.

UMM...SIR?
EXCUSE ME, BUT
YOU REALLY
SHOULDN'T...
UH...BE
POINTING THE
GUN AT
PEOPLE...



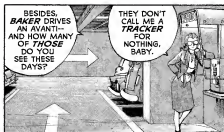
AND
AL-
SO...

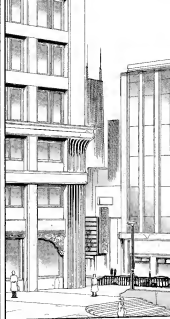


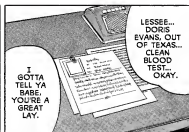
IF YOU
FIRE MORE
THAN TWENTY
ROUNDS
BETWEEN
CLEANINGS
YOU MIGHT
GET SOME
SEIZING
BETWEEN
THE BARREL
AND THE
CYLINDER...

UH...
ABOUT
THAT
CYLINDER--
I'VE
SHIMMED
IT
PRETTY
TIGHT.











THE STAFF KEEPS
THEIR MOUTHS
SHUT. YOU'LL
NEVER FIND OUT
HIS ROOM
NUMBER WITHOUT
SOMEONE
ON THE INSIDE.

THE
ALMOND
CLUB'S
GOT A
LOT OF
BIGWIG
CLIENTS.



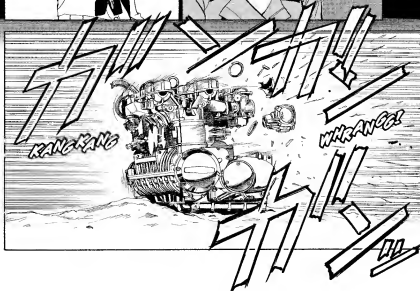
I STILL
DON'T
LIKE
IT...



hmph...
OH, ALL
RIGHT!



AND
YOU DON'T
WANT ONE
OF YOUR
"RALLY
SPECIALS"
USED IN A
MURDER.
DO
YOU...?



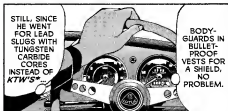




THEY
COULD
BE IN AN
ARMORED
LIMO. BEHIND
BULLET-
PROOF
GLASS...IT
WOULDN'T
MATTER...

PRETTY
OBVIOUS.
NOW, A
TWELVE-INCH
.44 MAG.
FIRING
HOT LOADED
ARMOR-
PIERCING
ROUNDS...

HE'S
AFTER
ROCKFORD.
OR THE
MAYOR.
OR
MAYBE
BOTH...



STILL, SINCE
HE WENT
FOR LEAD
SLUGS WITH
TUNGSTEN
CARBIDE
CORES
INSTEAD OF
KTW'S*

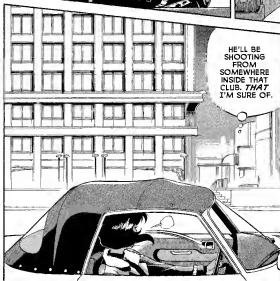
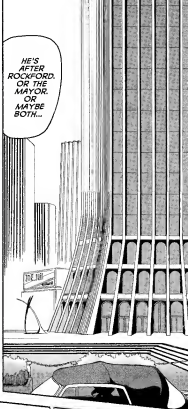
BODY-
GUARDS IN
BULLET-
PROOF
VESTS FOR
A SHIELD,
NO
PROBLEM.

*KTW-A TERFLON-COATED BRASS BULLET WITH SUPERIOR PENETRATING POWER



I DON'T
GET IT.
WHY NOT
JUST
USE A
RIFLE?

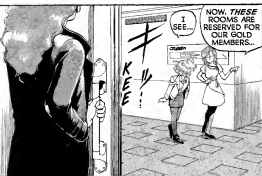
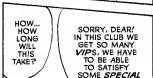
THEN
HE
REALLY
DOES
MEAN
TO DO
THE
LIMO.



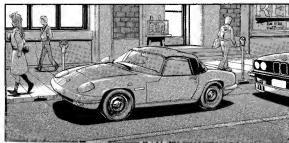
HE'LL BE
SHOOTING
FROM
SOMEWHERE
INSIDE THAT
CLUB. THAT
I'M SURE OF.



STILL
NO BIG
DIFF.



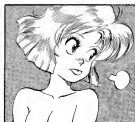




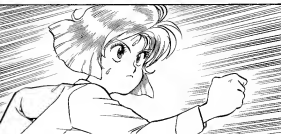






















YOU'RE
RIGHT.
I
GUESS
I
LOSE.
"REVOLVER
FREAK."



SHIT..
SO THAT'S
IT. IT'S THE
DAMNED
GUNSMITH'S
FAULT FOR
NOT GIVING ME
JACKETED
AMMO.



THE LEAD
BUILDUP
BLOCKS
THE
CYLINDER
GAP. IT
JAMS AND
YOUR
TRIGGER
WON'T
PULL.



...RAPID-
FIRE IT
WITH HOT
LOADED
UNJACKET-
ED ROUNDS
AND THE
LEAD'S
GOING TO
FOUL THE
BORE.

TAKE A
.44
MAGNUM...

"LEAD-
ING,"
RIGHT?



CAN
WE...?

WE CAN
NEVER REALLY
GO PRO.

THAT'S
THE
PROBLEM
WITH US
FREAKS...

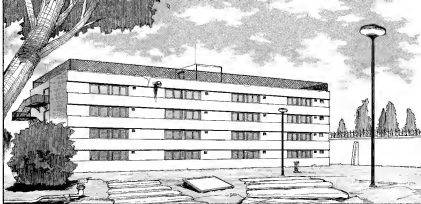
HA.
HA...



CHAPTER 3

BONNIE AND CLYDE





YEAH, BUT THAT'S
JUST A FRONT.
THE REAL DEAL'S
BOUNTY HUNTING.
DAMNED BITCH IS
THE BEST IN
CHICAGO.

I'VE HEARD
THAT NAME
BEFORE. A
GUNSMITH OR
SOMETHING,
RIGHT?



SO...YOU LET
SOME LOUSY
BOUNTY HUNTER
WRACK YOU UP?

PRETTY
WEIRD
NAME
FOR A
BROAD.



THOSE
TWO
ARE BAD
NEWS,
CLYDE.

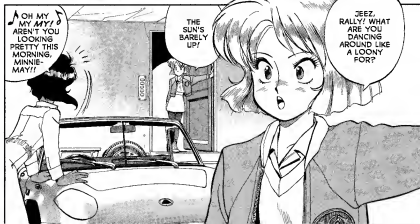
IT WAS THAT
STINKIN' BRAT
THAT WORKS
WITH HER
WHO BLEW
MY CAR.



RALLY
VINCENT?

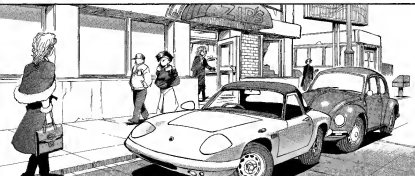
THAT'S
THE
ONE.















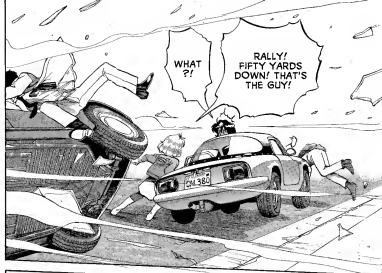


**THERE'S
A
BOMB
IN
HERE!!**

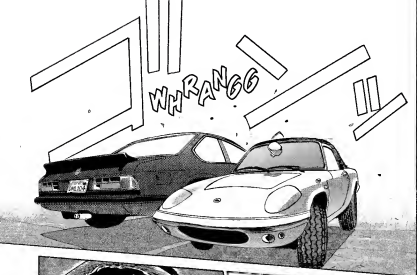














GOTCHA!

チカッ
KCHAK

MAY!!!
COMING
THROUGH!

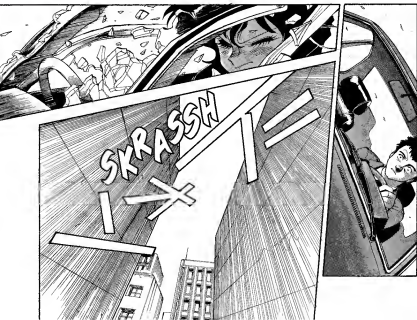


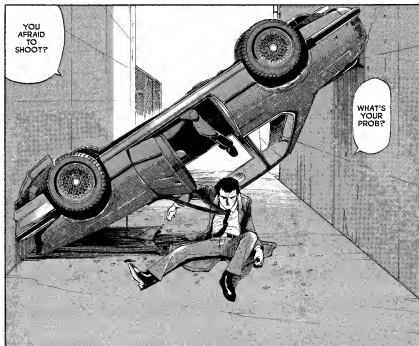
ア
TPP!!

SKREEEK

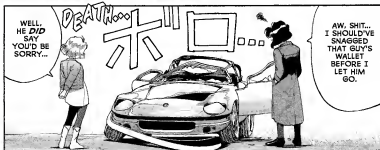












CHAPTER3 / END

CHAPTER 4

HOT FEEDING



AND
THIS IS
WHAT
I GET
?!

YOU LOSE YOUR LEGS TO THAT
BOUNTY HUNTER BITCH BUT YOU
STILL MANAGE TA BREAK OUTTA
THE SLAMMER. SO I FIGURE. HEY,
THE BROAD'S GOT GUTS--SHE
WANTS FIVE HUNDRED GRAND,
SHE GETS FIVE HUNDRED GRAND.
SHE DESERVES IT, YEAH? I
MEAN, WE BEEN DOIN'
BUSINESS
FOR YEARS.

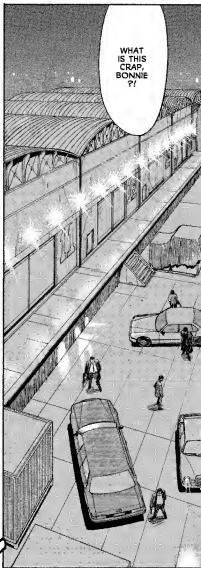


THIS COKE IS
SHIT! CHEAP
SHIT! AND ON
TOP OF THAT,
THE LOAD'S
WAY
SHORT!

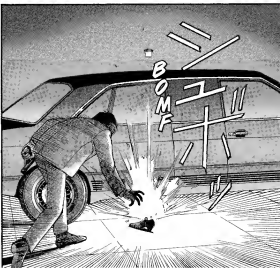
THIS
STUFF'S
NOT
WHAT
YOU
SHOWED
ME
BEFORE,
BABE.



WHAT
IS THIS
CRAP,
BONNIE
?!

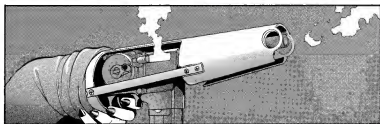
















HOW ABOUT OUR TAIL?

DON'T SWEAT. IT'S ALL OVER.



CLYDE ?!



NICE WORK.

OVER THERE. POOR THING WALKED INTO A BULLET.



AND NOW WE'VE GOT OUR NEST EGG **AND** OUR BAIT—TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.



DUMB BROAD NEVER FIGURED WE LET HER FOLLOW US.



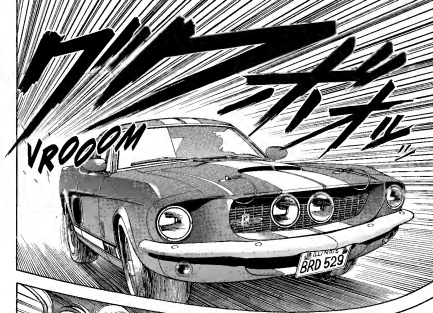
UHM...

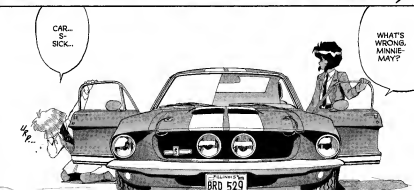
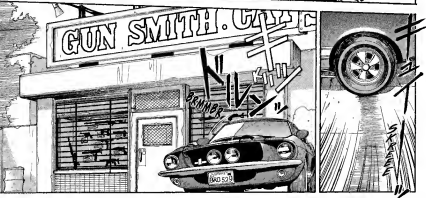
UHM...

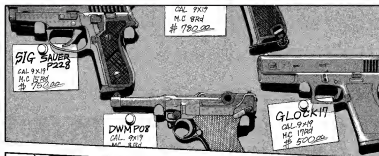


...**RALLY VINCENT!**

YOU JUST WAIT...









TO WORK,
TO WORK.

HEY
THERE,
MICKY—
GOOD
TO SEE
YOU!



YO,
RALLY!



SLAP IT ON
THE NET, OKAY?
YOU KNOW—
THE SPECIAL BBS
FOR
INFORMANTS.



YOU
GOT
IT!

WAY
COOL!
I'LL
TAKE
TWEN-
TY!



GOOD
TIMING--
I'VE GOT
MORE OF
THOSE
SADDAM
HUSSEIN
TARGETS
IN.

THE
USUAL,
BOSS...
TAR-
GETS
AND
AMMO.



ARGHH!
AND I'VE
LOVED
IT FOR
TEN
LONG
YEARS!

I HATE
TO TELL
YOU THIS,
BUT YOUR
BARREL
IS *SHOT*.



HMM...



READY
TO
GO.

OH,
YEAH--
DID YOU
FINISH
FIXING
MY UZI?

SEE
YOU
AGAIN,
RALLY!

HEY,
CAN
I SEE
THAT
OB?





SO WHAT'S THE GUY'S BAIL?

YOU BETCHA. THIS SCOOP IS SOLID GOLD, BUT IT'S FRESH FISH. SWEETIE-- YOU GOTTA USE IT BY TOMORROW MORNING.



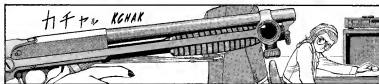
LESSEE, BECKY'S ACCOUNT NUMBER... THERE!

STAY ON THE LINE. I'LL SEND IT NOW.

SOLD!

IN THAT CASE, HOW ABOUT TWO HUNDRED!







...IS TO
CHOP
OFF THAT
GODDAMN
BITCH'S
ARMS AND
LEGS!!

WHAT
I WANT...



...I JUST
WON'T FEEL
RIGHT UNTIL
I'VE GOUGED
OUT AN EYE
OR TWO!

OF COURSE,
PAINED
BY HOW
MY POOR
SISTER
SUFFERS...



WE'VE
GOT TO
DECORATE
THE HALL
FOR OUR
LITTLE
PARTY.



NOW,
LET'S
GET
MOVING.





I MEAN, IF
IT'S REALLY
A TRAP
THERE ISN'T
ANY MONEY
IN IT.

JEEZ...
MAYBE YOU
OUGHTA
LEAVE IT
TO THE
COPS?

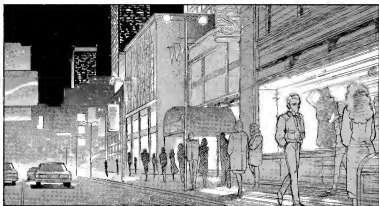
CAN'T
LEAVE
IT TO
THE
COPS.

キ
ツ
シ
ン
ク



OKAY--
LET'S
GO!





'CAUSE IT WAS
MY HAND
GRENADE THAT
COST BONNIE
HER LEG.



HEY, RALLY--
IF THE REASON
YOU CAN'T LEAVE IT
TO THE COPS IS
BECAUSE YOU FIGURE
IT'S YOUR DUTY TO
SETTLE THIS THING ONCE
AND FOR ALL, THEN
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL
WRONG, GIRLIE!

THE PROBLEM
IS, UNTIL I SHOW
UP, SHE'S JUST
GOING TO ESCALATE
THINGS. INCIDENT
AFTER INCIDENT,
TO DRAW
ME OUT.



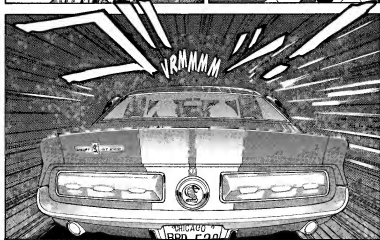
NO,
THAT'S
NOT IT
AT ALL,
MINNIE
MAY.

ESPECIALLY
IF SHE'S
GOT
BECKY
HOSTAGE...

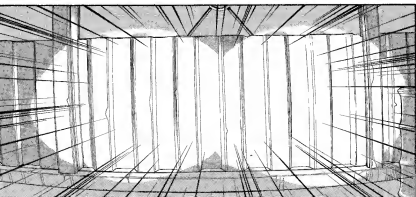


IT MAY
BE THE
OTHER
WAY
AROUND.

YOU
GONNA
KILL
HER?







SHRANGG

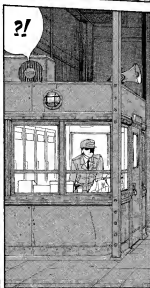


CHAPTER4 END

CHAPTER 5

BURST



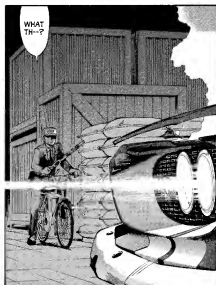


...MAYBE
AN
ACCIDENT
OUT FRONT.
I'M
GONNA
GO
CHECK IT
OUT.

YEAH,
IT'S ME.
I JUST
HEARD
A BIG
CRASH..











AND IN CASE YOU
GOT ANY FUNNY
IDEAS, BONNIE'S
JUST ITCHING TO
CHOP A COUPLE
FINGERS OFF THAT
NOSY FRIEND
OF YOURS!



I KNOW
YOU'RE OUT
THERE
SOMEWHERE.



IF YOU
DON'T WANT
ME TO FINISH
THIS GUY
OFF, YOU
BETTER STEP
OUT WHERE
I CAN
SEE YOU.

RALLY
VINCENT!
YOU
LISTEN-
ING?!







WHY'D
YOU
ASK?





YO, RALLY
BABY. GOOD
TA SEE YA
AGAIN.
SWEETHEART.

WHY,
HI
THERE,
MISTER
CLYDE!



YOU THINK THIS
THING BETWEEN YOU
AND BONNIE'S WORTH
THREE BODIES?

MAYBE JUST
TWO! HOW DO
I EVEN *KNOW*
YOU'VE GOT
BECKY?!

YOU'RE
REALLY
PLANNING
TO SHOOT
ME?



BECKY TELLS ME
THE TWO OF YOU
WENT SHOPPING AT
MACY'S ON TUESDAY
AND YOU BOUGHT
THREE PAIRS OF
SILK PANTIES.

HEH

SO TELL
ME WHY I
SHOULDN'T
JUST
TAKE *YOU*
HOSTAGE,
PAL?



I'VE GOT
TO LOCATE
BECKY FIRST.
MINNIE-MAY,
I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU!

OKAY.
I'M
COMING
DOWN.

HERE--
LET ME
HELP
YOU.

BKOOOM!







A CZ75
AND
FOUR
SPARE
MAGS...

MY, MY,
AREN'T
WE
WELL
PRE-
PARED...

A
BACKUP
GUN *AND*
THIS
PRETTY
LITTLE
KNIFE.

SHOTGUN.
NICE
KEVLAR
BODY
ARMOR...



GIVE ME A BREAK.
IF I COULDN'T
TELL *THAT*
MUCH FROM HER
SILHOUETTE,
I'D BE OUTTA
BUSINESS.

I FIGURED
YOU'D
WANT HER
ALIVE.

CLYDE! I HOPE
YOU KNEW SHE
WAS WEARING
THIS THING
BEFORE YOU
SHOT HER.

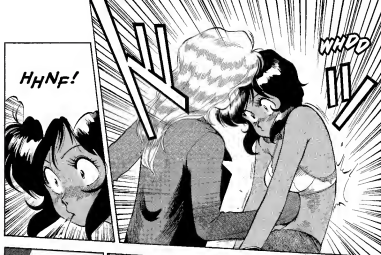


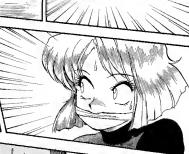
LOOK...YOU
DON'T NEED
BECKY
ANYMORE.
JUST LET
HER GO.



YOU
LOOK
A
LITTLE...
PALE.

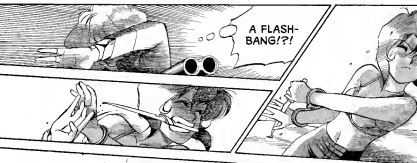
WELL...
SOMETHING
BOTHERING
YOU,
RALLY?



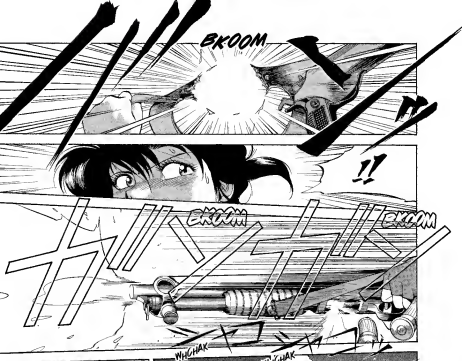
















GMPH
!!



ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?
THE
SHOTGUN
PELLETS...

CLOSE,
BUT
I'M
FINE.



SUPAA



DON'T
MOVE!



ZZAA





WHO
ARE
YOU?



YOU
KILLED
HER?



IT'S HER
FAULT.
RIGHT? SHE
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
MISSED
THE BUS.

HEY,
COOL
IT. I'M
NOT
INTERESTED
IN
FIGHTING
YOU.



THE
DELIVERY
MAN. SHE
HIRED
ME.

SHE WAS
LATE. SO I
CAME TO
CHECK UP
ON HER.



LIKE
ANY-
THING,
IF THE
PRICE
IS
RIGHT.



YOU
MEAN LIKE
CRIMI-
NALS?
OR
ILLEGAL
GOODS?

YOU SAID
YOU'RE A
"DELIVERY
MAN"...



HAVE
IT
YOUR
WAY.



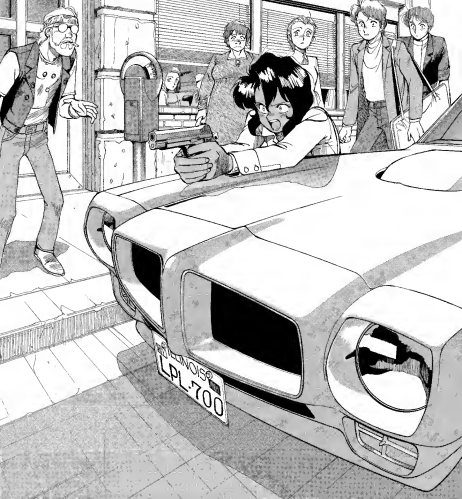
THEN
WE'RE
ENEMIES,
AREN'T
WE...?

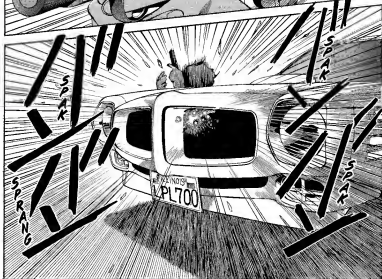


PROBABLY
WHETHER
WE LIKE IT
OR NOT.

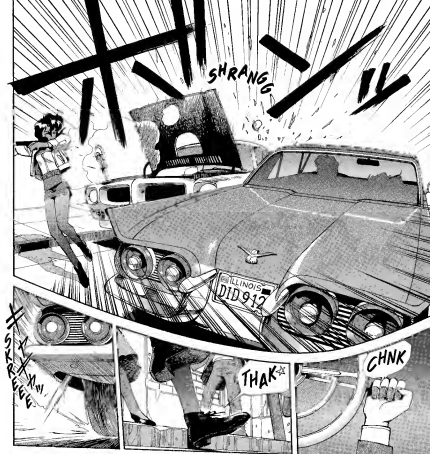
I FIGURE
WE'LL BE
MEETING
AGAIN.

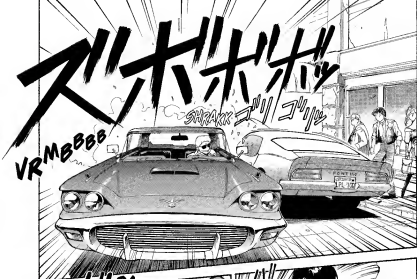
CHAPTER6 CZ75

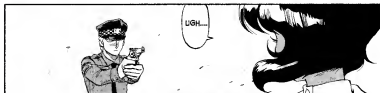




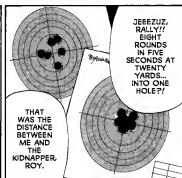
















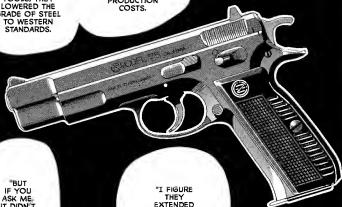
"IF THERE'S
ANYTHING THAT
COULD BE IMPROVED,
I'D MAKE THE GRIP
OUT OF WALNUT.
FULL-CHECKERED, AND
MAKE SOME OF THE
LEVERS A LITTLE
BIGGER.

"AS FAR
AS I'M
CONCERNED,
THE CZ75 IS
THE PINNACLE
OF SEMI-
AUTOMATIC
HANDGUN
EVOLUTION.



"IN ORDER
TO SPEED UP
PRODUCTION AND
TO GET MORE LIFE
OUT OF THE BLADES
ON THEIR MACHINE
TOOLS, THEY
LOWERED THE
GRADE OF STEEL
TO WESTERN
STANDARDS.

"BUT WHEN THE
CZECH GOVERNMENT
DECIDED TO SELL THE
CZ75 IN THE WEST,
THEY RAN INTO TWO
PROBLEMS--MASS
PRODUCTION, AND
PRODUCTION
COSTS.



"BUT
IF YOU
ASK ME,
IT DIDN'T
WORK.
THE OLD
MODEL
IS THE
REAL
CZ75."

"I FIGURE
THEY
EXTENDED
THE SLIDE RAILS
LIKE THAT TO
MAKE UP FOR
THE LOSS OF
ACCURACY.

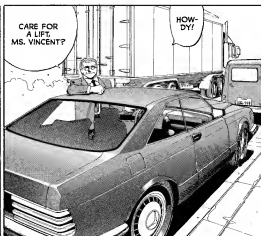








ANY-
WHERE
YOU
WANT TO
GO...



CARE FOR
A LIFT,
MS. VINCENT?

HOW-
DY!



IT SEEMS
BUSKIE TOOK
A HOSTAGE
AND
GOT AWAY,
RIGHT?

THE
POLICE CALLED
ME.

NO
COURT
TODAY,
MR. SCOTT?



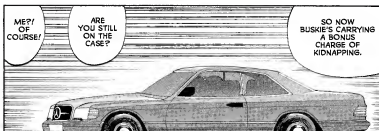
...AND IT'S
MY
FAULT.

Y...YEAH,
DAMMIT...



BRMBBBB

CHICAGO
SEF-510





HMM...YOU
CARRY A
COMBAT LOAD,*
COCKED
AND
LOCKED...



YOU'RE
GOING TO
DRIVE US
EXACTLY
WHERE I TELL
YOU.



ALL RIGHT--DUMP
ANY EXTRA GUNS
YOU'VE GOT ON
YOU IN THE BACK
SEAT. THEN TAKE
THE WHEEL.



I'M BEGGING
YOU, VINCENT.
PLEASE JUST
DO AS I
SAY!



BUSKIE'S
HOSTAGE
THIS
MORNING...
SHE'S MY
DAUGHTER!



**DO
IT
!!**

MR.
SCOTT?
WHAT
THE
--?



**NOW
!!**

*COMBAT LOAD: ONE ROUND CHAMBERED, PLUS A FULL MAGAZINE. GIVES YOU ONE "EXTRA" SHOT.











TIME TO
FINISH THIS
MORNING'S
BUSINESS!

THAT
STREET'S
A DEAD
END,
BITCH!

YOU SHOULD
BE TRYING TO
JUMP STATE,
NOT PLAYING
WITH ME!

ARE
YOU
NUTS,
BUSKIE?!

...I CAN UP
MY PRICE IN
THE FUTURE,
WHEREVER
I GO!

HEY, IF
I WHACK
CHICAGO'S
FAMOUS RALLY
VINCENT ONE
ON ONE...

WHERE'S
THE
GIRL?

WHEN
I
DON'T
EVEN
HAVE A
GUN? WHAT
A
JOKE!

DEAD
LIKE
YOU,
BITCH!



HE'S
SIXTY
YARDS
AWAY...
COME ON...
JUST A
LITTLE
CLOSER...



URK!



BANG



OR WON'T THE
GREAT RALLY
VINCENT EVEN
TOUCH A
\$60 GUN?!



JUST
A LITTLE
FARTHER...



I'VE BEEN
SELLIN' THEM
TO ALL THE
PUNKS
AROUND
HERE.

HEY, TAKE
A SHOT, BABE!
YOU GOT
A PIECE, RIGHT?
A NICE LITTLE
RG14?!









OKAY...
I'VE
BYPASSED
THE
TRIGGER
ELEC-
TRONICS.

YOUR
PROBLEM
IS THEN
YOU GOT A
CAR BOMB
YOU AIN'T
GONNA BE
ABLE TO
DISARM!

HEY,
YOU
ASSHOLES
DON'T
WANT TO
PAY, IT'S
NOT *MY*
'FRIGGIN'
PROBLEM!



YEAH?

I'VE
SEEN
THIS
SORT OF
SETUP
BEFORE.



AND I
DON'T
THINK HE'S
LOST HIS
TOUCH--



THAT'S
THE ONE.
COULDN'T
DISARM THE
BUGGER.
ENDED UP
BLOWING
THE WHOLE
BUILDING.

HE DO
THAT BIG
JOB FOUR
YEARS
BACK?

WELL,
MISTER
TROUBLE
IS BACK.



EVER
HEAR OF
A GUY
WHO
CALLS
HIMSELF
"KEN
TAKI"...?

TWEEDERS!



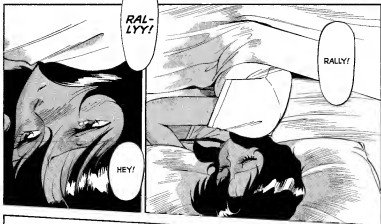
CHAPTER 7 HANG FIRE

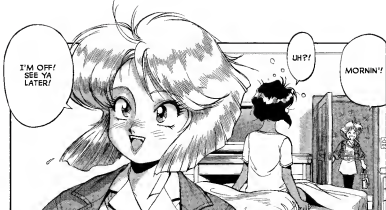
















THAT'S "TAKI."
KEN TAKIZAWA.
HE'S JAPANESE-
AMERICAN, AND A
REAL, GRADE-A
EXPLOSIVES
EXPERT.

THAT'S
THE ONE
COULDN'T
DISARM...

"KEN TUCKY"...?
YOU GOTTA
BE KIDDING.
WHAT'S HIS
REAL NAME?

HE DO
THAT BIG
JOB FOUR
YEARS
BACK?

WE DO
THAT BIG
JOB FOUR
YEARS
BACK?

THAT'S
THE ONE.
COULDN'T
DISARM.

PLUS, HE'S ALWAYS WORKED THE EAST COAST BEFORE.

THIS IS PROBABLY HIS CHICAGO DEBUT.

NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

YEAH, WELL, IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE HIS LAST BIG SHOW.

THIS IS PROBABLY HIS CHICAGO DEBUT.

NEVER
HEARD
OF
HIM.

YEAH, WELL, IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE HIS LAST BIG SHOW.

BIP



HERE!!

HERE!!

SO...?

DING!

DING!

大興



A close-up illustration of a hand pressing one of the buttons on a mobile phone's keypad.

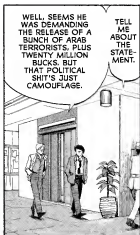
I DUNNO,
ROY--
MAYBE
THE
TIMER
WAS STILL
COUNTING
DOWN?

THE
TAPE
ENDS
HERE,
TOO.

THE
BOMB
WENT UP
RIGHT
AFTER HE
CUT THAT
CABLE.



THE
BOMB
WENT UP
RIGHT
AFTER HE
CUT THAT
CABLE.





CRAPPY
PICTURE,
TOO...
SUN-
GLASSES.

NOT
MUCH
CHANCE
OF
SPOTTING
HIM WITH
THIS
GARBAGE!

LESSEE...
ABOUT 5'6",
ABOUT 140,
ABOUT
THIRTY-FOUR
YEARS OLD...
CHRIST,
GREAT
INFO!



DUNNO
WHAT?

I
DUN-
NO...



GEE,
THANKS!

FOR
SEVEN-
TEEN, YOU
LOOK SO
YOUNG...



BUT
THIS
GUY'S
STILL
YOUNG
AND
FRISKY!

LOOK WHO'S
TALKING—I'D
NEVER GUESS
YOU WERE
OVER THIRTY,
"GRANDPA"...



ME?!
WELL, YEAH—
DON'T FORGET,
IT WAS *ME*
WHO JUMPED
YOUR BONES
WAY BACK
WHEN!

JEEZ,
MAY, WERE YOU
ALWAYS
SUCH A
HORNY
LITTLE
THING?





I WENT
OVER
A WALL...

I
TRIED
TO
SHAKE
THEM IN
CHINA-
TOWN.



FOUR
YEARS
AGO, THE
MOB WAS
AFTER
ME.

KEN, I
DIDN'T
HAVE
ANY
CHOICE.

MAY...



I THOUGHT
FOR SURE
THEY'D HAND
ME OVER TO
THE COPS,
OR EVEN
WORSE, THE
MOB...

...AND RIGHT
INTO THE BACK
YARD OF THE
PURPLE PUSSY. ONE
OF THE BOSS'S
GUYS FOUND ME
HIDING THERE
A COUPLE
OF HOURS
LATER.



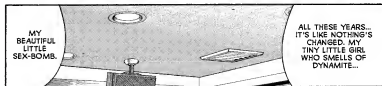
AT FIRST I
JUST HELPED
OUT CLEANING
ROOMS AND
STUFF, BUT
YOU KNOW
WHAT I'M
LIKE...SO I
FINALLY GOT
INTO THE
GAME.

BUT INSTEAD
THEY LET ME
HIDE THERE.
I WAS THERE
FOR WEEKS...
MONTHS. THEY
LOOKED AFTER
ME. THEY
STUFFED ME
WITH GOOD
FOOD...

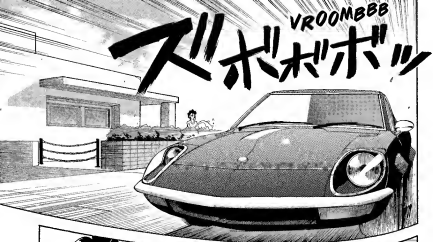


AND YOU CAN'T
KEEP THE BEST
WITHOUT BEING
NICE TO THEM. THEY
KNEW THAT. SO
THEY WERE KIND
AND FAIR...AND
THEY PAID ME
MORE MONEY
THAN I'D
EVER--

I KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
THINKING...
BUT IT WAS
A CLASSY
PLACE. ONLY
THE B-BEST
GIRLS...











WHA--
?!
B-BUT
YOU
SAID--



I AIN'T
BUDGING, BABE.
NOT UNTIL
THE SYNDICATE
GETS OUR
TWENTY MIL.

LOOK...
YOU'LL BE
OUT OF
HERE BY
TOMORROW
MORNING,
RIGHT?



AND
NOW YOU
DROGGED
ME INTO
IT!

BUT YOU
USED
THE SAME
BOMB
MAKER
AS
BEFORE!



THIS
TIME WE'RE
SETTIN'
'EM OFF
UNTIL THEY
COUGH UP
EVERY LAST
PENNY.

HEY, FOUR
YEARS AGO
THEY FOUND
THE DAMN
THING BEFORE
IT WENT OFF.
DIDN'T GET
A GODDAMN
CENT.



PLEASE GRAY--
I'M *BEGGING*
YOU! DON'T GET
ME ANY DEEPER
INTO THIS!

I'VE FINALLY
GOT A GOOD
MAN WHO
REALLY LOVES
ME, SO I'M
TRYING TO
GET *OUT* OF
THIS BUSINESS!!



...OR I'LL TAKE
YOUR "GOOD
MAN," CUT HIS
HEART OUT,
AND FEED IT
TO YA!!



SO
QUIT
YER
WHIN-
IN'...

I *NEEDED*
TAKE, BITCH!
WHEN HE
MAKES A
BOMB, *NO*
ONE CAN
DISARM IT,
SEE?



SMACK



NOW
IT'S TIME
FOR A
LITTLE
DRIVE.



shaaaht



!



HUH...?



WE'RE
GONNA
GO
PICK
IT UP.

THE
DELIVERY
BOY'LL BE
AT THE
SITE WITH
THE NEW
CAR ANY
MINUTE
NOW.



AND IF YOU
WANNA GET
THERE ALIVE,
YOU BETTER
BEHAVE
YOURSELF,
BITCH!





YEAH...

...AND
IT GETS
WORSE
WHEN I'M
UNDER
STRESS.

IT SAYS
YOU'VE
GOT
M.S....
?!



BUT IF I
MADE A DUD
ON PURPOSE,
RIGHT FROM
THE START,
THEY'D WHACK
ME FOR SURE.

I
WANT
OUT
OF THE
SYNDI-
CATE.
MAY.



I HAD TO
MAKE *BOTH*
OF THEM
PERFECT,
UNBEATABLE.

THIS TIME THEY
WANTED
TWO IDENTICAL
BOMBS. NO WAY
OF KNOWING
WHICH WAS
FOR THE DEMO
BLAST AND WHICH
WAS FOR REAL.



BUT
WHEN IT
COMES TO
DISARMING
THEM...

EVEN WITH MULTIPLE
SCLEROSIS, I CAN
STILL DO IT. I USE
AN ASSISTANT TO
ASSEMBLE THEM.
AFTER THAT, I JUST
ARM THEM, AND
I'M HOME FREE.



THE WORD'LL
GET OUT THAT
THE COPS CAN
DISARM MY
DEVICES NOW,
AND THE
SYNDICATE'LL
DUMP ME, WHICH
IS EXACTLY
WHAT I WANT.

IF ALL
GOES
WELL...

...FOR
THAT I
NEED *MORE*
THAN AN
ASSISTANT.
MAY, I
NEED A *PRO*,
SOMEONE
AS GOOD
AS ME.



IF YOU
GET OUT
OF THE
SYNDICATE,
YOU'LL
LIVE IN
CHICAGO,
RIGHT?!

RIGHT
?!



WILL
YOU
DO IT,
MAY?

OH,
YEAH!!



W-WAIT,
I
HADN'T
THOUGHT...

AND
WE'LL
GET A
PLACE
TOGETHER
AN' STUFF,
HUH?!



YA-
HOO!

UH,
I...
UH...



SO SAY
"YES"
LIKE A
GOOD
BOY.

"YES,"
MA'AM.



OH,
DEAR...
BAD
NEWS.

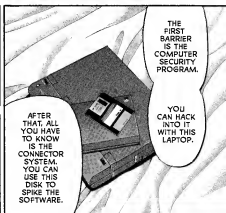
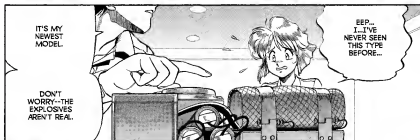
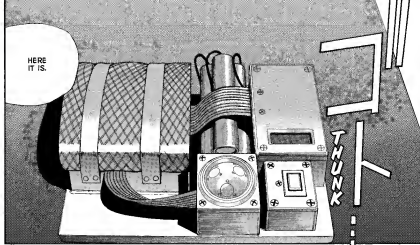
STOP!! IF YOU
DON'T SAY "YES"
YOU'LL NEVER
EXPERIENCE MY
AMAZING ORAL
TALENTS EVER
AGAIN!



AGAIN?!
YOU'RE
INSATIABLE!!

YAHOO!
AND
HERE'S
YOUR
REWARD!





HOW
ARE WE
GONNA
EVEN
KNOW
WHERE
IT IS?

HEY,
WAIT!
THE
CAR!

FIRST
YOU'LL WANT
TO USE A
SET OF
CORNER JACKS
TO FREEZE
THE CAR
POSITION...

SO IT KNOWS
WHEN IT'S BEING
MOVED. ONCE
IT'S BEEN SET, IT'LL
GO OFF IF YOU
SHIFT THE CASE
OR CHANGE THE
CASE ORIENTATION
MORE THAN
THREE TIMES.

...AND THAT IT'LL
HAVE MICHIGAN
PLATES. THAT
SHOULD
NARROW IT
DOWN ENOUGH.

I DON'T
KNOW THE
EXACT MODEL,
BUT I DO
KNOW WHERE
THEY'RE
PARKING IT...

SO WE'RE NOY
GOING TO GET
MUCH SLEEP
TONIGHT...

OKAY,
MAY--WE'VE
ONLY GOT
TWENTY-SIX
HOURS.

DIDN'T
EVEN
SPILL
MY
BEER,
MAN.

YOU
BROUGHT
HER
OVER
NICE
AND
SMOOTH.
RIGHT?

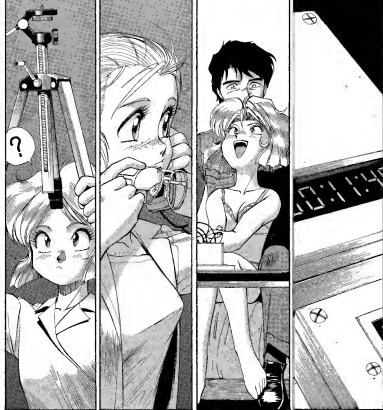
ALL
RIGHT.
HERE'S
YOUR
FORTY
GRAND.

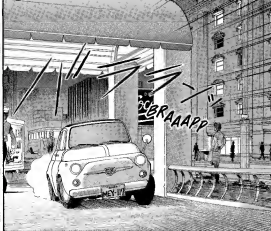
ZAA



CHAPTER 8

MISFIRE







LOOK, MINNIE—I
SAW OUR GETAWAY
MAN THIS MORNING.
YOU KNOW, THE GUY
WITH THE MEGA-JAW?
HE WAS HEADED
DOWNTOWN.

NOW,
NOW, RALLY...
WHERE I TAKE
MY DATES
IS PRIVATE
BUSI-
NESS!

SOUNDS
LIKE
YOU'RE
IN THE
LOOP!



JUST
CRUISIN'
DOWN
MONROE
STREET,
SWEETIE
ON MY
ARM...

WHERE
ARE
YOU?
DOWN-
TOWN?



...MICHIGAN
PLATES...
LICENSE
NUMBER
ZDLC561.

IT'S
DARK
BLUE...



THAT'S
THE GUY.
HE WAS
DRIVING
AN OLD
DATSUN
280Z.
SO KEEP
YOUR EYES
OPEN.

NO
KIDDING!
MISTER
HEADBAND
AND
SHADES?!



I'M ALL
RIGHT,
RALLY...
DON'T
WORRY.

...BUT THE GUY *IS* SOME
KIND OF UNDERWORLD
PRO, SO MAYBE HE'S NOT
TOO HAPPY THAT YOU
AND I SAW HIM...YOU
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

I
KNOW
THIS
SOUNDS
CRAZY...



THAT
GIRL...



THANK
カッ
7.7

BINGO!
WE'VE
BEEN
GOING
AT IT
LIKE
WEASELS!



DON'T
TELL
ME...
THE
ENTIRE
TIME...?

UH...
MAY, DEAR...?
YOU
SAID
YOU
HAD
A
DATE...





HERE'S
THE
KEY.



COOL,
MAN.



OH,
YEAH!

SEE
YA.

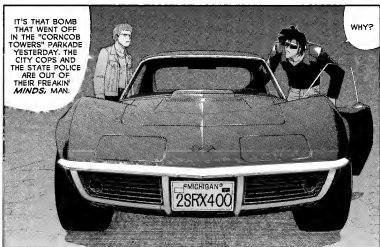
YOU
BETTER
KEEP AN
EYE PEELED,
MAN. THE
COPS ARE
CRUISIN'
IN FORCE
TONIGHT.



HEY, NO
DUDE IN THIS
RACKET'S EVER
GONNA TURN
YOU DOWN,
BEAN.

THANKS.
I
OWE
YA
ONE.

P
A
K



IT'S THAT BOMB
THAT WENT OFF
IN THE "CORNCOB
TOWERS" PARKADE
YESTERDAY. THE
CITY COPS AND
THE STATE POLICE
ARE OUT OF
THEIR FREAKIN'
MINDS, MAN.

WHY?



THEY'RE
STOPPING
ANYTHING
WITH MICHIGAN
PLATES, SO
PLAY IT SAFE,
OKAY?



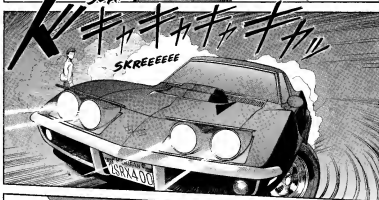
DUNNO.
BUT THE COPS ARE
TEARIN' THE
TOWN APART
SEARCHING
FOR
NUMBER
TWO.

CAN'T
FIGURE WHY
TERRORISTS
WOULD HIT
A PLACE LIKE
THAT. NOT LIKE
IT'S GONNA
DO MUCH
DAMAGE.

EXTORTION?
MAYBE
JUST
TO SHOW
WHAT
THEY CAN
DO?



I'M NOT SO
OUT OF IT I
NEED ADVICE
FROM YOU,
BUDDY.

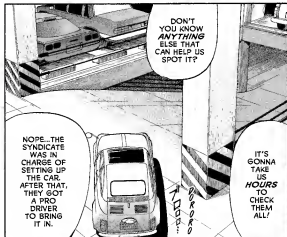


.....
.....



GEEZ,
KENNY!
ABOUT
EVERY
SEVENTH
CAR HAS
MICHIGAN
PLATES!

MAN, OH,
MAN, I DIDN'T
REALIZE THIS
GARAGE WAS
SO DAMN
HUGE.
ALL THE WAY
DOWN TO B-3...



NOPE...THE
SYNDICATE
WAS IN
CHARGE OF
SETTING UP
THE CAR.
AFTER THAT,
THEY GOT
A PRO
DRIVER TO
BRING IT
IN.

DON'T
YOU KNOW
ANYTHING
ELSE THAT
CAN HELP US
SPOT IT?

IT'S
GONNA
TAKE
US
HOURS
TO
CHECK
THEM
ALL!

KIDDO...
KIDDO...



OH
WOW!

A PRO
DRIVER...?



LOOK FOR
AN OLD,
DARK BLUE
DATSUN 280Z,
LICENSE PLATE
2DLC561!

IT'S THE
GUY
RALLY
SAW, I'M
POSITIVE!!

LOOK, I TOLD
YA--I
NEVER
SAW THE
DRIVER!

HE'S NOT
A GUY
WITH THIS
BIG OL'
JAW, IS
HE?



DRIVER'S GONNA
CHARGE LESS TO
HAUL AROUND
SOME PLAIN OLD
COKE THAN A
BIGASS BOMB
IN HIS TRUNK.

NAW...
PROBABLY
FLOUR,
JUST FOR
CAMOU-
FLAGE.

IS...IS
ALL
THAT
COKE?

I'LL GO
PUT THE
GUARDS
AND THE
SECURITY
SYSTEM
TO SLEEP.

PUT
ONE
UNDER
EACH
CORNER
OF THIS
BABY.

YOU GO RIP
OFF FOUR
JACKS FROM
SOME OF
THESE CARS,
MAY.

YEAH...THE
SAFETY'S
OFF, ALL
RIGHT.

OK!!

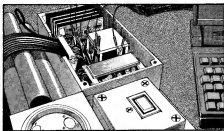
SHWOOP







HEY!!



NOW I'M
GONNA NEED
A HAND
HERE FOR
A SEC.

YOU
BETCHA!

HEY, BABE!
YOU
CRACKED
THE ICE
ALREADY
?!

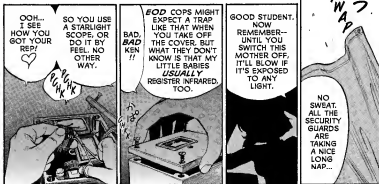


THE CODE FOR
THE OPTICAL
SENSOR IS "2-3"
ON THE RIGHT
UPPER BANK,
AND "1-7"
ON THE LEFT.
YEAH?

OOH,
SLICK!

...AND I SET
THE SIGNS
FOR THIS
FLOOR
TO "LOT
FULL."

HOW'D
YOU
MAKE
OUT,
LOVER
BOY?



OOH...
I SEE
HOW YOU
GOT YOUR
REP!
♡

SO YOU USE
A STARLIGHT
SCOPE, OR
DO IT BY
FEEL. NO
OTHER
WAY.

BAD,
BAD
KEN
!!

EOD COPS MIGHT
EXPECT A TRAP
LIKE THAT WHEN
YOU TAKE OFF
THE COVER. BUT
WHAT THEY DON'T
KNOW IS THAT MY
LITTLE BABIES
USUALLY
REGISTER INFRARED.
TOO.

GOOD STUDENT.
NOW
REMEMBER—
UNTIL YOU
SWITCH THIS
MOTHER OFF,
IT'LL BLOW IF
IT'S EXPOSED
TO ANY
LIGHT.

NO
SWEAT.
ALL THE
SECURITY
GUARDS
ARE
TAKING
A NICE
LONG
NAP...

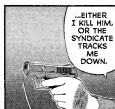
















WE LOST POWER
AND THE "POWER-
OFF" RELAY
CYCLED! WE'VE
GOT FIVE
MINUTES BEFORE
IT BLOWS!



**YOU'RE
DEAD,
BEAN
BAN-
DIT
!!**





HEY!

YOU'VE GOT TO RELEASE THE PRIMER PROTECT SYSTEM UNDER THE GYRO-- YOU GOT TWO MINUTES, FORTY SECONDS.



YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR DELIVERING THAT THING, PAL!

I SAID DON'T MOVE!



TAKE THE SCREENS ALL THE WAY OUT AND IT BLOWS!



FOUR MINUTES!



SNK



THAT GT500'S A RARE BIRD. KNEW YA THE MINUTE I SAW YA.



YOU... YOU SPOTTED MY TAIL ?!

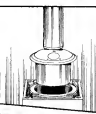
HEY, LIGHTEN UP, BABE. I BROUGHT YOU HERE, DIDN'T I?



WHEN THERE IS, YOU COME AND GET IT, YOU HEAR?



BESIDES, THERE'S NO BOUNTY ON MY HEAD.



WHY USE A
TIMER WHEN THE
POWER'S
CUT? WHY
NOT JUST
"BOOM"
...?

HEY,
EVERY-
BODY
MAKES
MISTAKES.
HUH? AND
I LIKE
LIVING!



GTOK

THREE
MIN-
UTES!



ning...

TWO
MINUTES
THIRTY!



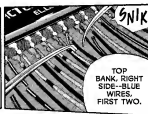
EIGHT OF
THOSE WIRES
ARE REAL
TIME TRIGGER
SWITCHES.
SO BE
CAREFUL.



ACK!



GYRO
OFF!



HEY!

YEAH...

YOU
DID
IT,
HON.



--so it
looks
like Gray
got out
alive.



Those two
days we had
together
were
incredible,
my love.
Thank you
forever...

Ken



I honestly
pray you'll
find a good
man, settle
down, be
happy.



Darling,
I'm
so sorry,
but I doubt
we'll ever
meet
again.



I can't bear
the thought
of my
Minnie-May
and her
friends
being
targets
because of
me.

I'm sure
he's told
the
syndicate
I betrayed
them.



I'm going
to have
to go
underground
again, but
deep this
time.



CHAPTER 9

JAMMING





YOU
QUIT
CALLING HIM
MIDDLE-AGED,
YOU
COW!

MY
KEN'S
ONLY
THIRTY-FIVE,
Y'KNOW!



INSTEAD OF MOONING
AROUND AFTER SOME
DIRTY OLD MAN WHO
RAN OUT ON YOU,
WHY DON'T YOU
THINK ABOUT
YOUR FUTURE
FOR A CHANGE?!

THAT'S
MIDDLE-
AGED
ENOUGH
FOR ME,
MINNIE-
MAY!



I'M TALKING LOVE, NOT
MATH! SHEESH! IF YOU
THINK I'LL FORGET
KEN OVER A FEW CHEAP
DRINKS, YOU ARE OUT OF
YOUR PISTOL-PACKIN'
MIND, RALLY
VINCENT!

EIGHTEEN
YEARS'
DIFFER-
ENCE!
THAT'S
ONE
HELL OF
AN AGE
GAP!

AS
MUNDANE
AS
CHEESE
IS IT?

MOM,
NO WAY!



YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE TRYING
TO MAKE ME
FEEL BETTER,
SO STOP
PREACHING
AT ME LIKE
YOU'RE
MY DAMN
MOTHER OR
SOMETHING!

YOU SAID
YOU'D TAKE ME
ANYWHERE I
WANTED TO GO,
TREAT ME TO
ANYTHING I
WANTED
TO EAT.





I THOUGHT I'D
TRY AND CHEER
YOU UP BECAUSE
YOU'VE BEEN SO
DEPRESSED OVER
KEN, AND *THIS* IS
WHAT I GET?!

YOU...
YOU!!

YOU DON'T
HAVE ANY IDEA
WHAT
I'M GOING
THROUGH, YOU...
YOU OLD
MAID!!

FACE IT--
YOU'RE JUST
JEALOUS, RALLY!!
I KNOW MORE ABOUT
LOVE THAN YOU
EVER WILL!

HA
GAY



I'M
GOING
HOME!

YOU'RE
NOT MY
MOTHER,
RALLY VINCENT!

YOU
COME
BACK HERE
RIGHT
NOW,
MINNIE-MAY
HOPKINS!!







WE GO
DOWN-
TOWN AND
HIT SOME
LOUSY GAS
STATION,
THEY'LL
NAB US
FOR SURE.



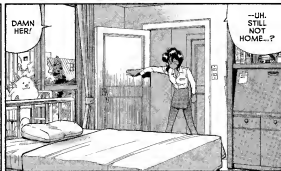
WE
BETTER
GRAB
SOME
SPARE
PLATES
AND
SOME
GRUB,
TOO.



GUESS
WE GOTTA
MAKE
A LITTLE
HOUSE
CALL,
HUH?



SHE
SAID
SHE WAS
GOING
HOME!



DAMN
HER!

--UH.
STILL
NOT
HOME...?



MY
POOR
COBRA
SEEKS
BLOOD,
YOU SHE-
DEVIL!

...WHAT
AM I
GOING
TO DO
ABOUT
YOU?!

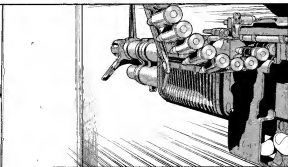


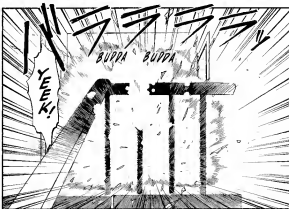
HON-
ESTLY...

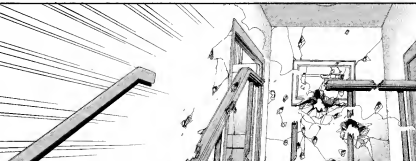
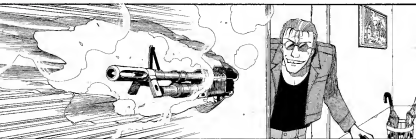
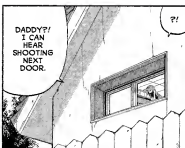














I'M
GETTING
MY
MONEY'S
WORTH
OUTTA
THIS
GUY...



WHEW...



YEAH,
A
BROAD.

WHAT
THE
HELL'S
GOING
ON IN
THERE?
WAS
SOMEONE
HOME?



YEAH
?!



BREEP!
HEY!
BUD!



HEY,
I STILL
GOTTA
ICE THE
BITCH!

NOW WE
GOTTA
BEAT FEET
BEFORE
THE PIGS
GET HERE.

JUST
HAVE TO
PLAY
WITH
THAT
STUPID
M60,
DON'T
YOU!



THANKS
FOR
CUTTING
ME THIS
NICE, BIG
GUN
PORT...



THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
THINK,
PAL.

HEH-
HEH-
HEH...



SHIT,
JUST
GIMME
A FEW
MORE
SECONDS,
MARGE!

WHAT?!
AFTER
ALL THAT
SHOOTING
SHE STILL
AIN'T
DEAD?!



YOU
BETTER
SNAG
HER SO
SHE
CAN'T
GET
THE
COPS!

WHAT
?!



BUD!
SOME KID'S
COMING TO
THE FRONT
DOOR!

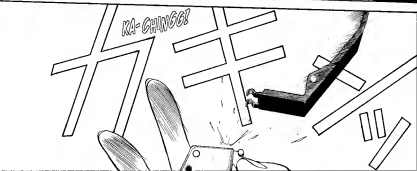


OH
NO!



MINNIE-
MAY
IS
BACK
!!



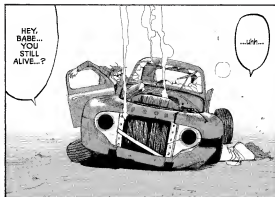














IT'S
COOL!
REALLY!

AW,
QUIT
IT, GIRL!



HEY,
SOMETIMES
WE ALL WANT
TO SMASH
SOMETHING!

R-
REALLY
?!



I THOUGHT
OF
APOLOGIZING
RIGHT AWAY,
BUT, YOU
KNOW...

IT
WAS,
LIKE,
TOO
HARD. I
COULDN'T
COME
HOME
SOBER,
SO I--



GACK
?!



SO I'LL
BUY YOU
ANOTHER
STUPID
"PUSSY-
WUSSY"
...!

OH,
YEAH?!
JUST
LOOK AT
WIDDLE
"PUSSY-
WUSSY"
...!

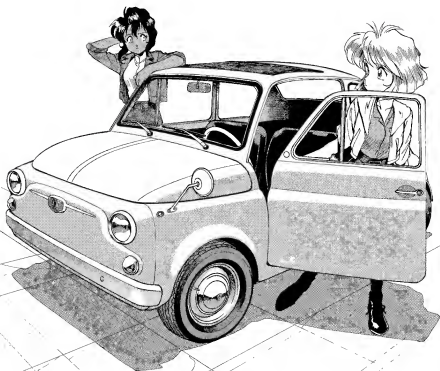
HEY, I
DIDN'T
DO IT!
IT'S JUST
THE DOOR
AND
WALLS,
ANY-WAY!

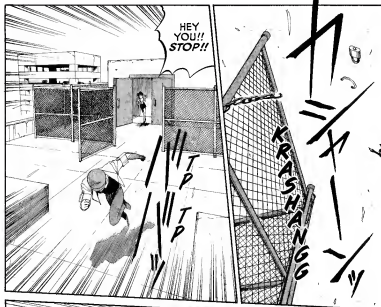
WHAT
THE HELL
IS THIS
CRAP?!
MY
ROOM'S
ALL SHOT
FULL OF
HOLES!

UMM...
'SCUSE
ME... I'M
KINDA
DYIN'
DOWN
HERE...

CHAPTER 10

MUZZLE & EDGE











**TWO
DAYS!**



**BOUNTY
HUNTER,
BABE--
YOU
GOT A
PROBLEM
WITH
THAT?**



**HEY--
AREN'T
YOU A
COP?**

**HERE--
PUT
'EM
ON.**



**I KNOW
WHO
REALLY
DID IT. I
ONLY NEED
FORTY-
EIGHT
HOURS--!**

**THE GUY
WHO DID IT
IS STILL OUT
THERE!
I DIDN'T DO
THIS ONE, I
SWEAR!!**



**ALL YOU
HAVE TO DO
IS DELIVER
ME BY YOUR
DEADLINE,
RIGHT? SO
JUST WAIT
TWO
DAYS!**

HUH?



YEAH, SURE.
NOW GET
THOSE
BRACELETS
ON!



ARE
YOU
NUTS?!

YOU JUMPED
BETWEEN
THE
BUILDINGS?!

WHA--?!
PULL UP
NEXT
DOOR?



THAT'S
LIES,
RIGHT
FEET...!

GEEZ,
ANYTHING
FOR A
BUCK...

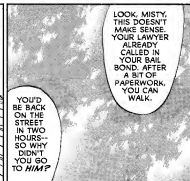


HI,
MINNIE-
MAY
HERE!
♥



HE'S
THE
ONE
WHO
SET
ME UP!

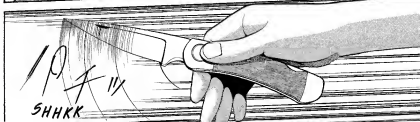
ARE
YOU
CRAZY?!
HILLS
IS THE
GUY!



LOOK, MISTY,
THIS DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE.
YOUR LAWYER
ALREADY
CALLED IN
YOUR BAIL
BOND. AFTER
A BIT OF
PAPERWORK,
YOU CAN
WALK.

YOU'D
BE BACK
ON THE
STREET
IN TWO
HOURS--
SO WHY
DIDN'T
YOU GO
TO HIM?















WAAHH!!



BRAM



Es...
HYU

YOU CHOP UP
MY EIGHTEEN
HUNDRED
DOLLAR SIG
P-210 AND
YOU STILL
THINK I'LL LET
YOU GO?!



NOW
YOU
LISTEN TO
ME,
MISTY
BROWN!!

B-BUT...IF I'M
UNDER HILL'S'S
PROTECTION I'LL
JUST GET WHACKED
IN SOME "ACCIDENT."
AND EVEN IF YOU
GET ME LOCKED UP
NOW, HE'LL FIND
OUT I TRIED TO
GET AWAY...



LOOK,
I NEVER
FIGURED
TO GET
OFF
SCOT-
FREE!

FLAT
ON THE
ROOF,
FACE
DOWN!



HMM...IT ALL SEEMS
TO MAKE SENSE...BUT
I DUNNO...THE WAY
SHE WENT AT ME...



OKAY,
DROP
THE KNIFE!

...AND HE'LL
GET AT ME
IN PRISON.
THE MAN
HAS
CONNECTIONS.



MY ONLY
WAY OUT
OF THIS IS
TO GET HIS
ASS NAILED
TO THE
WALL.

1/0 #4
FWP

はっ!

AH!



FWAA!



JUDGE
WILL
KICK
YOUR
ASS,
OLD
LADY!!

NOW,
NOW...
BETTER
NOT SHOOT
A FLEEING
SUSPECT
IN THE
BACK,
HEY?



FWHAM!

SUCKER!

BKAM BKAM BKAM

EEP!





OH,
YEAH?! I
COULD'A
CUT
YOUR
FACE,
LADY!

BUT
I ONLY
DID YOUR
SKIRT AND
JACKET
'CAUSE I'M
TOO
NICE!!



DON'T
THINK
YOUR
LAME-ASS
KNIFE
WORK
SAVED
YOU,
BRAT!

THE
ONLY
REASON
I DIDN'T
SHOOT YOU
IS BECAUSE
YOU'RE
STILL A
KID!







カンカンカンカン
KANG KANG KANG KANG

RUN
RUN
RUN
!!



OH,
YEAH?!
AND
WHO'S
THE IDIOT
WHO
STARTED
THIS,
HUH?!

IT'S
YOUR
FAULT
FOR
JUMPING
DOWN SO
HARD!



AND
WHO'S
THE
IDIOT
WHO CUT
OFF MY
SKIRT,
HUH?!

AT
LEAST
I'M
NOT
RUNNING
AROUND
IN MY
UNDER-
WEAR!!



JUST
TWO
MORE
FLOORS!

WHANGG

WAAHG!
IT'S
GOING
OVER!



スカッ
SKAKK

カンカン
KANG KANG
KANG KANG
KANG KANG
KANG PA-
KING

AIEE!













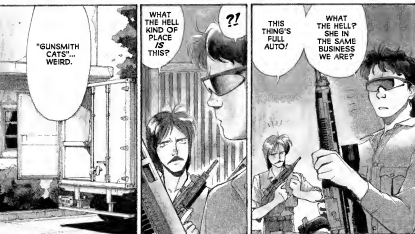
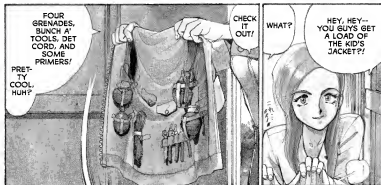


CHAPTER 11

MAGNUM PRIMER









WHY
THAT
LITTLE...
GRRR!



EH...?



MINNIE-
MAY
...?!



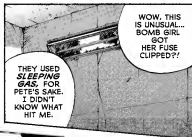


WE, HEHEH...I WAS
TAILING ONE OF THE
GANG MEMBERS,
SNIFFING FOR SOME
INFO, AND...er...
THEY CAUGHT
ME.



**BECKY
?!**
WHAT THE
HELL ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?!

THEY
GOT
YOU,
TOO,
MAY
?!



THEY USED
**SLEEPING
GAS**. FOR
PETE'S SAKE.
I DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT
HIT ME.

WOW, THIS
IS UNUSUAL...
BOMB GIRL
GOT
HER FUSE
CLIPPED?!



A BUNCH OF
GUNMEN HIT THE
STORE. CAUGHT
ME WITH MY
PANTS DOWN.
SO TO
SPEAK.

AND
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
LITTLE
MISS
MAY?



"GRAY"
...?



YEP--THEIR
BOSS GRAY
AND
EVERYONE
ARE **PROS...**
THE REAL
THING.

AH-
HAH!
SO
THAT'S
WHY
WE--



IT'S NOT A
JOKE THIS
TIME,
MAY. THESE
GUYS ARE
DAMNED
GOOD!

WORD ON THE
STREET SAYS
THEY'RE GOING
AFTER THE LOCAL
MAFIA. THEY'VE BEEN
HITTING GUN STORES
LEFT AND RIGHT TO
GET SUPPLIES.



AND I WOULDN'T
TALK SO BIG,
BECKY FARRAH. I
THOUGHT YOU
WERE SUPPOSED
TO BE MISS
"SUPER-
REPORTER."



HEADS
UP, GUYS!
THE
BOSS
IS
BACK!

OUTTA
THE
TRAILER!
GET
READY!



YES, SIR!
THEY'RE
IN THE
RIG,
SIR!

LEM-
ME
SEE!

HAVE WE
GOT ENOUGH
GUNS?

YOU
BET, BOSS!
MAJOR
SCORE!



LOOKS LIKE
YOU BOYS
FOUND
YOURSELVES
QUITE A
SHOP.

MAN, THEY
HAD STOCK LIKE
YOU WOULDN'T
BELIEVE, GRAY!
CAME WITH A
BOOBY PRIZE,
THOUGH...

WELL, HOT SHIT...
A LOT OF THIS
STUFF AIN'T
EVEN ON THE
MARKET.





IT'S MY
"FIRST
AID KIT,"
RIGHT?



DO
YOU
ALWAYS
WEAR
SHOES
LIKE
THAT?

MAY, YOU'RE
A
WON-
DER.



HUH?
YOU
KNOW
HIM,
MAY?



SO, TELL ME ABOUT
THIS GUY THEY CALL
GRAY...HE WOULDN'T
HAPPEN TO BE A GREAT
BIG BLACK DUDE MINUS
A RIGHT HAND,
WOULD HE?



IF I HAD MY
DRUTHERS, I'D TRY
THE WINDOW, BUT
THERE'S NO ROOM
TO GET MY HEAD
THROUGH...



...BUT HE'S
A **BIG** SON OF
A BITCH,
THAT'S
FOR
SURE.

WELL,
I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THE
HAND...



OH,
RIGHT! IF
YOUR BUTT
WASN'T
SO BIG,
BECKY, WE'D
BE OUT OF
HERE BY
NOW!



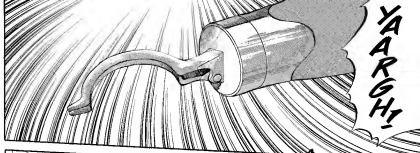
SO,
UH...
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?











Y A R G H!



SHIT !!

SHANG
XING



KRANG

CH
N
G



THOSE TWO CHICKS MADE A BREAK FOR IT! GET A COUPLE GUYS ON THE GATES, FRONT AND BACK!

YO!
WHAT'S UP,
BOSS?

K
S
H
T



HEY!
K
S
H
T



YEAH...IF HE HADN'T SCREWED UP THAT BOMB DEAL, WE'D HAVE MONEY TO BUY THE GUNS, EH? THE GUYS UPSTAIRS CUT OFF HIS CASH--

DAMN! CAN'T MAKE NO MONEY! JUST LIKE THE BOSS, HUH?



THREE!
I AIN'T
GOIN'
NOWHERE!

THAT'LL
LEAVE JUST
TWO OF US
COVERING
THE HOUSE,
BOSS!



CAP THE ONE
WITH GLASSES,
BUT I WANT
THE LITTLE
BRAT ALIVE!

DIDN'T YOU
STUPID SHITHEADS
STRIP-SEARCH
THE BITCHES?!
THEY HAD A
FRIGGIN' BOMB
ON 'EM.

HUH?



BECKY,
COULD YOU
FIND ME
THE SPICE
RACK?

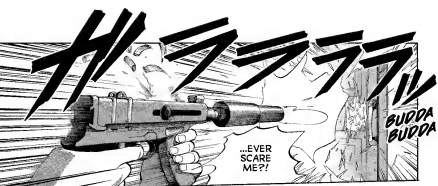
OH,
YEAH?

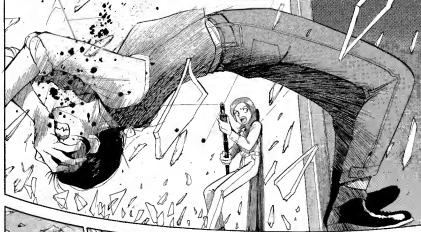
UHM...
THERE'S
STILL
THREE OF
THEM IN
THE
HOUSE.



THD THD THD THD THD THD











YO THERE,
SWEET
THING.



FOR
INSTANCE...

TELL ME
WHAT I WANNA
KNOW, AND
JUST MAYBE
YOU DON'T
GOTTA DIE.



PUT
'EM
DOWN,
KIDS.



...OR
MAYBE
WHERE
KEN
TAKI'S
HIDING
OUT.

...ALL ABOUT
THE BITCH
WHO BLEW
OFF THIS
HAND OF
MINE...

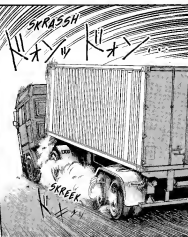


THEN
YOU DON'T
KNOW
WHERE
HE IS
EITHER...?

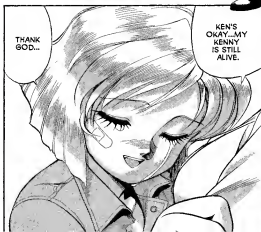
KEN'S
"HIDING
OUT"...?







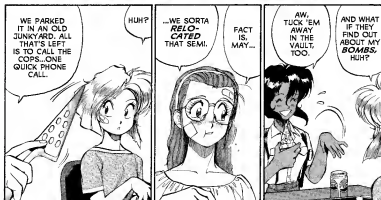
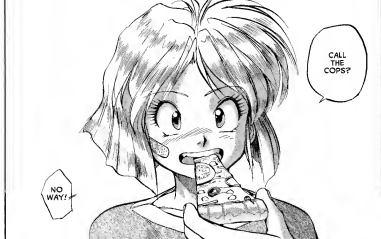






CHAPTER 12

SIGHT IN







'CAUSE I
DON'T
LIKE IT,
THAT'S
WHY!



IT'S ONLY
A MATTER
OF TIME
BEFORE HE
TRACKS US
DOWN. SO...

...WHY NOT
HAVE THE
COPS
PROTECT
US FOR
A CHANGE?



THE
COPS'LL
NEVER
CATCH HIM.
NOT THAT
GUY.
NEVER!



GRAY'S
NO
IDIOT--
HE'LL
FIGURE
OUT
WHAT'S
WHAT.



IF GRAY'S MEN
TRACK HIM DOWN
WHILE WE'RE
LETTING THE COPS
DICK AROUND ON
THIS CASE, HE'S
DEAD! **DEAD!**



AND
MEANWHILE,
KEN'S
STILL OUT
THERE!

HE'S OUT THERE
TEARING CHICAGO
APART LOOKING
FOR US! ALL WE
HAVE TO DO IS
WAIT, AND HE'LL
WALK RIGHT INTO
OUR HANDS!

THE SOONER
WE FIND
GRAY AND
STOP
HIM, THE
BETTER!

IF IT
WASN'T FOR
KEN, WE'D
HAVE BEEN
HAMBURGER
WHEN THE
BOMB WENT
OFF! YOU
OWE HIM,
RALLY!

THESE
GUYS AREN'T
NORMAL
SCUMBAGS!
THEY'RE MORE
LIKE SOME
TERRORIST
ARMY! WE'D
HAVE TO BE
NUTS TO GO
UP AGAINST
THEM!

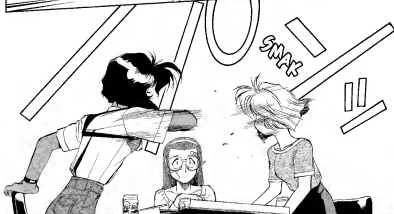
IT'S
TOO
DAMN
RISKY
!!

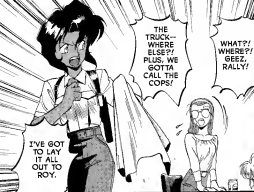
WE GOT
THIS
FAR BY
WORKING
TOGETHER.
DIDN'T WE?!

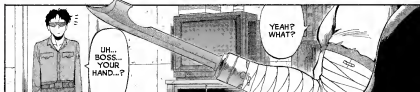
WE CAN
IF WE
ALL WORK
TOGETHER!

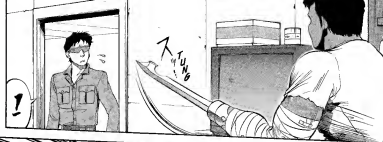
AND WHO'S
TO SAY
INNOCENT
PEOPLE
WON'T GET
CAUGHT
IN THE
CROSSFIRE?!

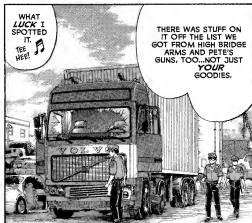
LOOK--EVEN
IF WE TAKE
OUT GRAY,
WE COULD
WIND UP IN
THE SLAMMER
OURSELVES!











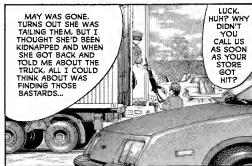
WHAT
LUCK I
SPOTTED
IT.
TEE
HEE!

THERE WAS STUFF ON
IT OFF THE LIST WE
GOT FROM HIGH BRIDGE
ARMS AND PETE'S
GUNS, TOO...NOT JUST
YOUR
GOODIES.



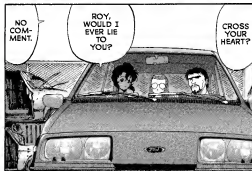
RALLY...
YOU SAID
YOU FOUND
THIS
YOURSELF?

YEP,
BUT ONLY
'CAUSE
MINNIE-
MAY
SAW IT
LEAVE.



MAY WAS GONE.
TURNS OUT SHE WAS
TAILING THEM. BUT I
THOUGHT SHE'D BEEN
KIDNAPPED AND WHEN
SHE GOT BACK AND
TOLD ME ABOUT THE
TRUCK. ALL I COULD
THINK ABOUT WAS
FINDING THOSE
BASTARDS...

LUCK.
HUH? WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
CALL US
AS SOON
AS YOUR
STORE
GOT
HIT?



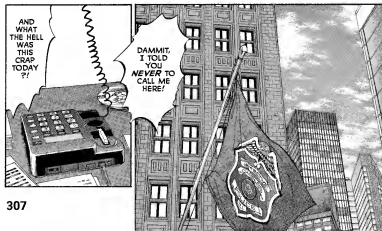
NO
COM-
MENT.

ROY,
WOULD I
EVER LIE
TO
YOU?

CROSS
YOUR
HEART?



WE'VE
BEEN
RUNNING
AROUND
SINCE
NOON
LOOKING
FOR THIS
THING.





HEY,
CHIEF...

AND WHAT
ABOUT OUR
DEAL?! I'M
GETTING A
LITTLE TIRED
OF WAITING
FOR YOU TO
DELIVER
THOSE MOB
BOYS!



THAT WAS *YOUR*
GODDAMNED
TRUCK, RIGHT?!
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE,
GRAY, WE FIND A
TRUCK PACKED
WITH STOLEN GUNS.
WE GOT *NO*
CHOICE BUT TO
MOVE!



I'LL GIVE
YOU THE
WISEGUYS
AND THE
COKE. NO
PROB.

HEY, CHILL
OUT, CHIEFY.
I AIN'T
BREAKIN' NO
PROMISES.



Y-YES,
SIR!

I'M
ON THE
GOD-
DAMNED
PHONE,
MORON!
*GET
OUT!*



HEY,
MAN,
THANKS.

NOW
I'M
SITTING
ON *THAT*
FOR
YOU,
TOO!

DAMN RIGHT
YOU WILL.
SOMEONE
TIPPED US
OFF ON YOUR
HIDEOUT
TODAY,
PAL.



HEY,
DON'T
SWEAT IT.
IT'S
SMALL
CHANGE.

THIS
PART
OF THE
DEAL,
TOO?!

BUT I
GOT ONE
RE-
QUEST...









THAT'S
TOO
WEIRD...

KACHAK!



JUST
TO BE
SURE
...?

...I
DON'T
SEE
WHY--

SHE
MIGHT
BE IN-
VOLVED
...?!



HE COULD
HAVE JUST
ASKED ROY.
WHY KEEP IT
SECRET FROM
HIS OWN MAN?
AND FOR THE
CHIEF TO
CALL
HIMSELF...



I
DON'T
GET
IT...



PROOOO



NOT
GRAY
AND
THE
CHIEF
...P!

NO
WAY!



BRAAAAA

PROOOO

VRROOOO



BY THE WAY, I HOPE MAY ISN'T BUGGING YOU.



FINE BY ME.

WANNA TRY SLOWING DOWN? SEE WHAT HE DOES?



ROY, I'VE GOT A CAR BEHIND ME. CAME ROARING UP LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELL, BUT NOW HE'S NOT TRYING TO PASS.

-K G H A K-
HEL-LO?



BEEP
BEEP
BEEP



SHE'S NOT WITH YOU ?!



AKANGG

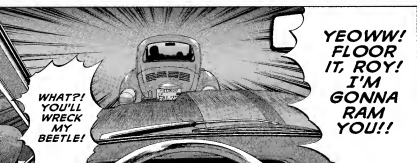


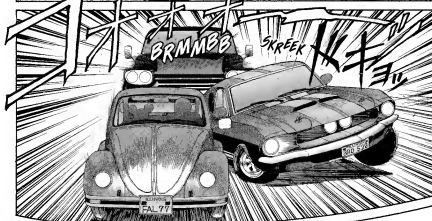
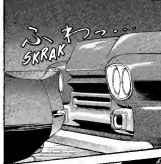
SHE JUST DROPPED OFF THAT STUPID HAT OF HERS. SO YOU GUYS WOULDN'T MISS ME FOR ANOTHER BUG, SHE SAID!



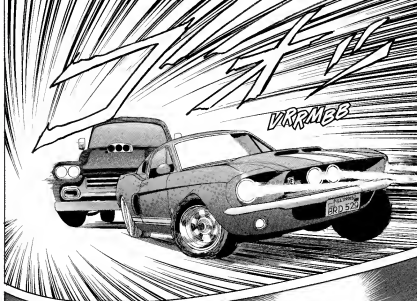
BUT... BUT I SAW--

HUH ?!







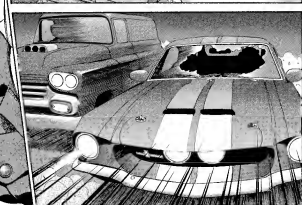


'CAUSE YOU'RE
ABOUT AS CUTE
AS "MINNIE
MOUSE MAY
HOPKINS?"



WELL, IN
THAT CASE,
HOW ABOUT
"MINNIE,"
HMMMM?







ILLINOIS
MAY 117

DAMN
RIGHT
WE'RE
PARTNERS!

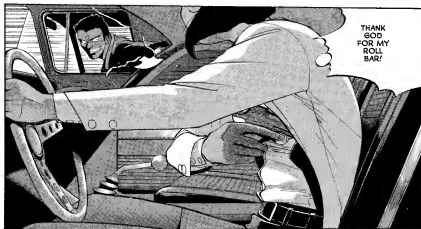
CHEVROLET

ILLINOIS
BRD 529



GRAY?!

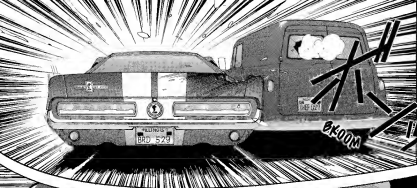
KANG

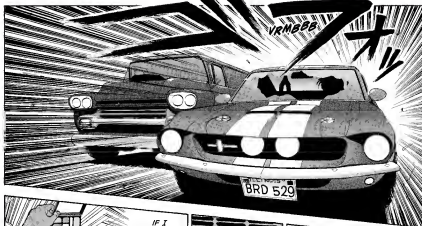


THANK
GOD
FOR MY
ROLL
BAR!









IF I
CAN JUST
DODGE
THAT
SHOTGUN
UNTIL I'M
CLEAR...



IF I CAN GAIN
A HUNDRED
YARDS ON THEM,
I CAN SHAKE
THEM FOR SURE.



OKAY,
BOSS!

FORGET
THE GOD-
DAMN
GUN! CRANK
UP THE
ENGINE!



HEY, THAT'S
WHAT I GOT
THIS 360
HORSEPOWER,
430 CUBIC
INCH BABY
FOR!

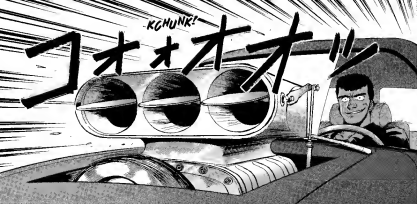


THEY'RE
EATING
MY DUST!

THAT
DID
IT!



CHKK



UNLIKE A REGULAR TURBO, A SUPERCHARGER USES A MECHANICAL LINK WITH THE ENGINE TO SPIN THE TURBINE







A HUNDRED
AND THIRTY.
BABE. FIRST
TIME IN YOUR
LIFE, I'LL
BETCHA,
HEY?

THIS IS,
LIKE, **SO**
AWESOME!
HOW FAST
ARE WE
GOING?!



WHEE
!!
♡♡

G WAAA



GET
REAL! WE
GO ANY
FASTER,
WE'LL
BE IN
ORBIT!

MAKE
IT GO
FASTER!



NOT A
CAR ON THE
ROAD CAN
BEAT **THIS**
MACHINE!

HEY, THIS
BABY'S A
RACE-TUNED
TOP OF THE
LINE SUPRA!



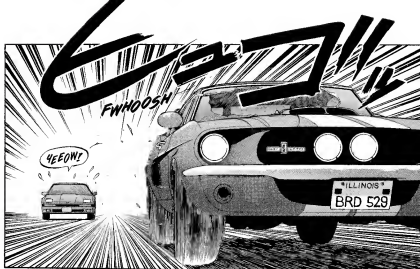
HAW HAW!
NICE TRY,
BUT **NO**
WAY!

THERE'S
SOMETHING
COMING
UP BEHIND
US--**SUPER**
FAST!

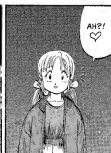


HEY...?

WHAT'S
UP,
BABE?



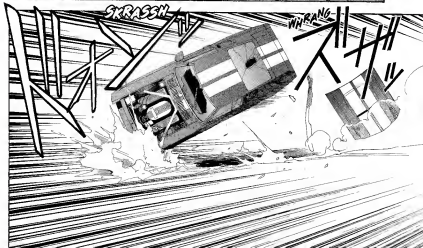


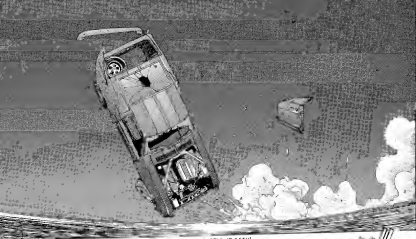




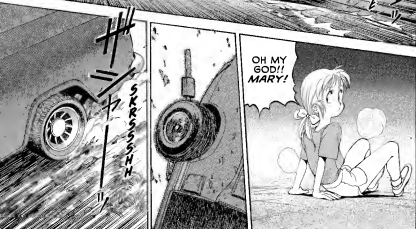
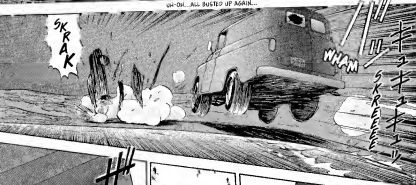








WH-OH... ALL BUSTED UP AGAIN...



OH MY
GOD!!
MARY!





GET OUT
ONE AT A TIME
AND LIE
FLAT
ON THE GROUND!

THIS
IS THE
POLICE!
THROW
OUT
YOUR
GUNS!



HNG!

SPAK



FUCK
YOU!!



GET
THE
LIGHT
BACK
ON
THE
VAN!

TAKE
GRAY
ALIVE,
YOU
UNDER-
STAND?!

I
CAN'T
HEAR
YOU!!



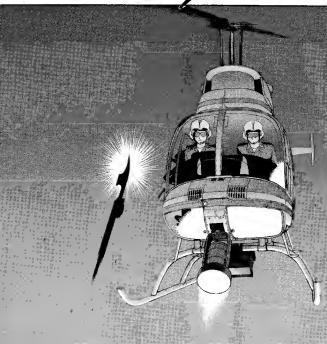
SAVED
BY THE
BELL...

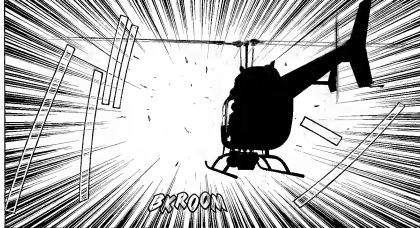


SHUT UP
AND TOSS
ME ONE
OF THOSE
GUNS!

WHAT THE
HELL IS THIS,
BOSS?! YOU
SAID YOU'D
KEEP THE COPS
OFF OUR ASS!











...I'M
CHOPPING
OFF YOUR
FRIGGIN'
HAND!!

BUT
BEFORE
WE
GET IT
ON...

SHING

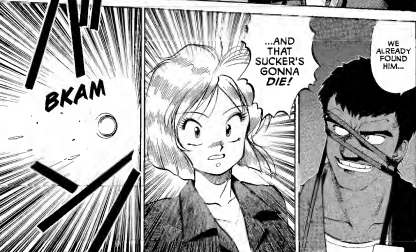
NNG!

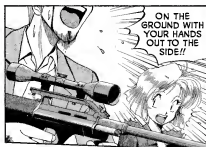
KANGG

ZZZK

WHAT
THE
F--?!

HEY,
"DIANA"
WANTS
TO PLAY,
TOO!



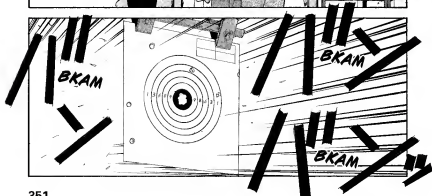
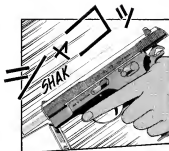


CHAPTER 13



**HARD
TOUCH**







...THE
PAIN!
THE
p-p-
PAIN!



C-CAN'T
HIT THE
BROAD-
SIDE OF
A BARN.
AND...

THERE WAS
A ONE-TIME
CONTACT
SWITCH IN
THE CASE.
ONCE
IT'S ON,
THERE'S
PRACTI-
CALLY NO
WAY IN
HELL TO
DISARM
IT.



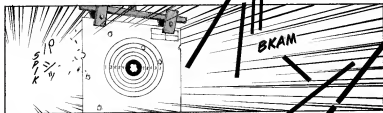
FORENSICS
WAS
VERY
IM-
PRESSED.
MY FRIEND.



PRETTY
HIGH-TECH
STUFF FOR
AN HONEST,
LAW-ABIDING,
UPSTANDING
BOUNTY
HUNTER TO
HAVE HANDY,
DON'T YOU
THINK?



AND
THEN
THERE
WAS THE
PULSE-
MODULATED
REMOTE
CONTROL...



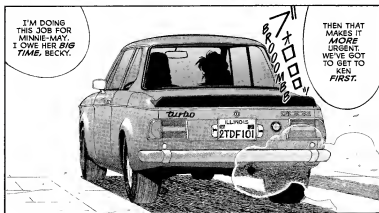
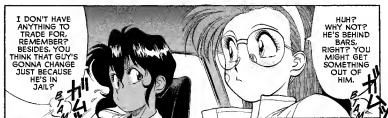






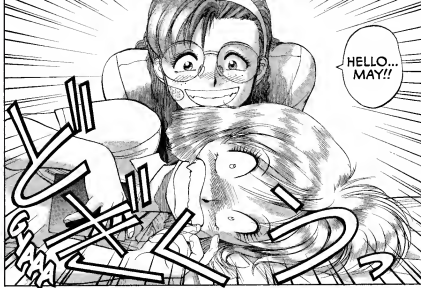
BMW 2002 TURBO











HELLO...
MAY!!



OH,
YEAH?!
THEN YOU
DROPPED
BY
BECAUSE...

...JUST
MAYBE
--?



B-B-
BECKY?!
WHA--?!
WHY?!

I'VE BEEN
RUNNING ALL
OVER TOWN
LOOKING
FOR YOU!



RALLY'S
OUTSIDE
WAITING IN
THE CAR.

YEP--
I TRACKED
'EM DOWN...
GRAY'S
LITTLE
BUDDIES!







WHAT'S UP, BECKY? AREN'T YOU COMING, TOO?



GOT IT.

THE MANAGEMENT COMPANY'S A FRONT FOR GRAY'S BOSSES... GET IT?



...OKAY...IF I HANG OUT WITH YOU ANY LONGER IT'S \$35 AN HOUR PLUS TRIPLE TIME FOR DANGER MONEY...

ONE GRAND FOR THE INFO...

TAK TAK TAKKA

LET ME SEE, NOW... CAR RENTAL AND DRIVER FOR ONE DAY'S WORK...

HMM, GOOD QUESTION.



KEY, NO PROB! BUT DON'T FORGET THE RENTAL AND THE DATA!



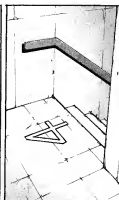
LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN KEEP YOUR BUTT IN THE CAR.

HOW'S THIS LOOK, RALLY?

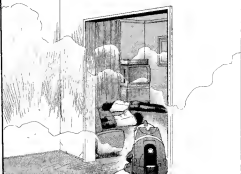


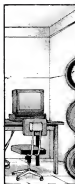
SORRY, HON... NOT ME!

BECKY...I'VE GOT A BROKEN ARM, SMASHED RIBS, AND A TOTALED COBRA. COULDN'T YOU CUT ME A LITTLE SLACK...?





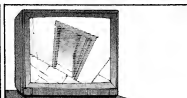




...GIVES US TIME
TO HAVE A
LITTLE FUN,
RIGHT? ALL
KINDS OF
FUN...!



DAMN...
THEY HAD
A CAMERA
ON THE
DOOR.









MY
DAMN
RIBS!

AARGH!
I CAN'T
HIT A
THING!



KSHAK //



GHK

IT HURTS
SO
MUCH I
SQUEEZED
TOO
HARD!

OH
SHIT!





YOU
LOSE,
BABE.



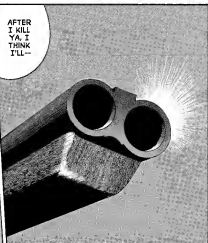
MMPH!

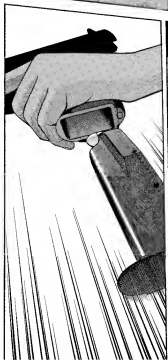


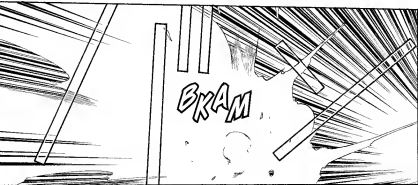
ぽろ
ぽろ
DROP



AFTER
I KILL
YA, I
THINK
I'LL--

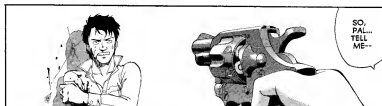








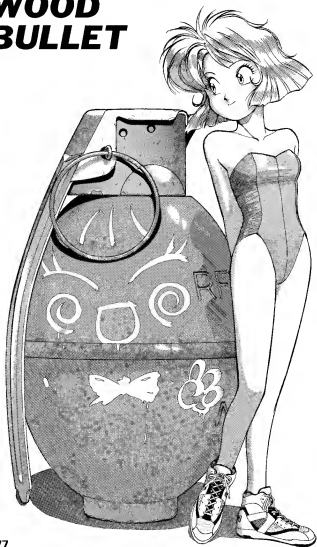


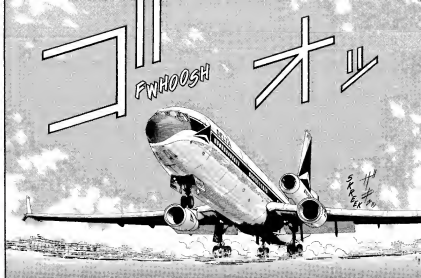


CHAPTER13 / END

CHAPTER 14

WOOD BULLET





THEY
SAID
THE
HOTEL
SHUT-
TLES
STOP
OVER
THERE.

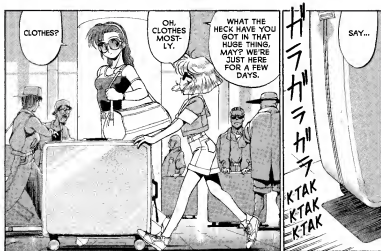
'KAY!
LET'S
GO!



GOD,
IT'S
BEEN
AGES...

L.A.
HUH...

YO,
MAY!







AGAIN?!
YOU'RE
IN BAD
SHAPE
NOW,
YOUNG
LADY.



IF IT HURTS
THAT MUCH,
MY
DEAR,
THEN...
...THEY
PROB-
ABLY
ARE
BRO-
KEN.

....
....!



ORRHH!

BUT
FIRST I
WANT
TO
CLEAN
THESE--

NOT
TO
TAP



SO
ARE
THEY
BRO-
KEN?

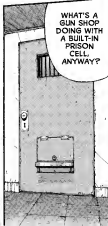
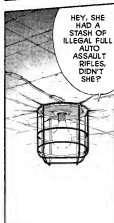
SILLY
GIRL...
CARRYING
ON LIKE
THAT WHEN
YOU'VE
ALREADY
CRACKED
YOUR
RIBS.

I
WON'T
KNOW
UNTIL I
SEE THE
X-RAYS.



WHA
--?!

YOU ARE
CHECKING IN
TO THIS
HOSPITAL
NOW, FOR
FOUR OR FIVE
DAYS AT
LEAST.





WITH
THIS
LOUSY
THING?

ANY
LUCK
WITH
THE
FRIGGING
LOCK?



FOR-
GET
IT!



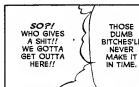
SO
WHAT
THE
HELL
ARE
YOU
SUR-
PRISED
AT?



FOR-
GET
IT!



SO
WHAT
THE
HELL
ARE
YOU
SUR-
PRISED
AT?



SOP!
WHO
GIVES
A
SHIT!!
WE
GOTTA
GET
OUTTA
HERE!!

THOSE
DUMB
BITCHES'LL
NEVER
MAKE
IT
IN
TIME.



HEY, LOOK AT
IT THIS WAY--
WE SENT OUT
THE ORDER TO
WHACK KEN
TWO DAYS
AGO.



THAT MEAL
SLOT IS LOW
ENOUGH
SO THAT WHEN
THEY HIT THE
FLOOR WE
CAN REACH
THEM.

YEAH...
THAT
OUGHT-
TA
WORK.
HEH--
CAN'T
WAIT
FOR
DINNER
TO-
NIGHT!



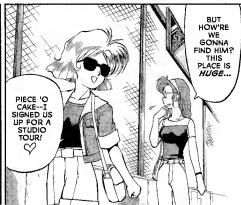
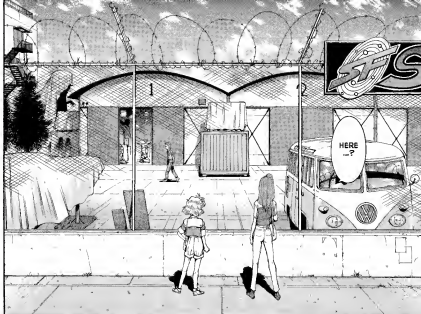
SO WE POUR
WATER ON THE
FLOOR UNDER
THE DOOR, AND
THE NEXT TIME
THEY BRING
THE FOOD, WE
ZAP 'EM!

HEY...
GOOD
IDEA,
MAN!



HEY, NO
SWEAT,
PAL, LOOK--
WE
GOT AN
ELECTRIC
CORD...

...AND
WE
GOT
WATER,
RIGHT?

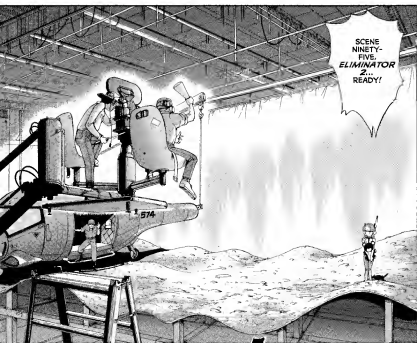


I'VE
GOT A
PRETTY
GOOD IDEA
WHERE HE'S
GOING
TO BE!



DON'T
WORRY!
IT'S KEN,
REMEMBER
...?

SCENE
NINETY-
FIVE.
ELIMINATOR
2...
READY!

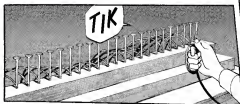


ACTION!

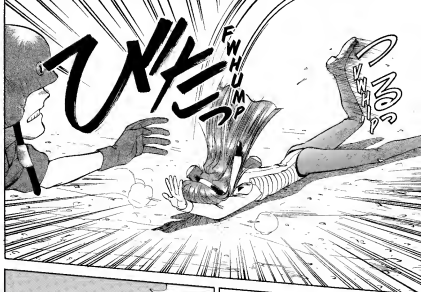
Eliminator 2
#45

カッ

KTAK









SURE,
BOSS. I
CAN DO
IT IN
TWENTY.



HEY, JOE...
SORRY TO RUSH
YOU, BUT CAN
YOU RESET ALL
THE CHARGES
BY
THEN?

BREAK!
BACK
ON IN
FORTY-
FIVE!



THAT WAS
SLICK.
STOPPING
THOSE LAST
THREE
SQUIBS
LIKE
THAT.

WE
COULD
HAVE
ENDED
UP
WITH
SPIT-
ROAST-
ED
STAR-
LET.



THANKS!

YOU'RE
DAMN
GOOD,
JOE.



'KAY!
BYE-
BYE!

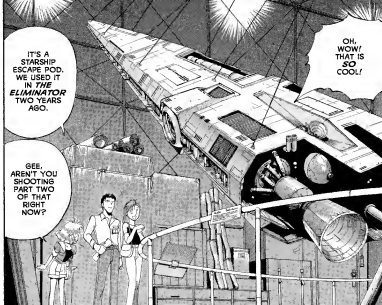
RUN AND
HAVE THE
DOCTOR
TAKE A
LOOK AT
IT, DEAR.



OOH...
I
THINK I
GOT
AN
OWWIE.







IT'S A
STARSHIP
ESCAPE POD.
WE USED IT
IN *THE
ELIMINATOR*
TWO YEARS
AGO.

OH,
WOW!
THAT IS
SO
COOL!

GEE,
AREN'T YOU
SHOOTING
PART TWO
OF THAT
RIGHT
NOW?



OH,
GEE,
SORRY!

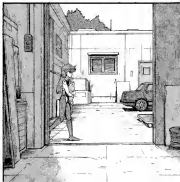
I CAN'T
TALK ABOUT
THAT. NO TOURS
UNTIL IT'S
IN THE CAN.

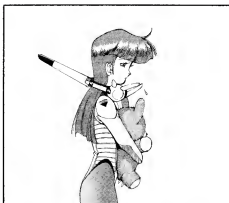
HUH?
SORRY,
KID.



BUT HOW
CAN I GET
ONTO
THE SET?

KEN'S
GOT TO BE
DOING
SPECIAL
EFFECTS.





Uh, well,
uh... I, I
THINK SHE'S
IN THE POTTY...

HEY...
WHERE'D
YOUR LITTLE
SISTER
GO?



JUST
DON'T DO
ANYTHING
TOO CRAZY,
MINNIE-MAY...
PLEASE?!

I'M SORRY.
BUT I'M
SURE SHE'LL
BE RIGHT
BACK AS
SOON AS SHE'S
FINISHED.

GOSH,
SHE'S *SO*
MUCH
TROUBLE.
YOU'VE
GOT TO
WATCH HER
EVERY
MINUTE!



LOOK
FOR HER,
DAMN
IT!
FIND
HER!

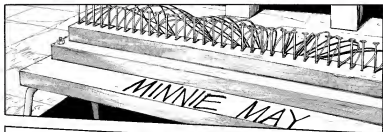
CHRIST,
I'M
SORRY,
GUYS.
SO NOW
WHAT?

IT'S YOUR
DAMN
FAULT FOR
TALKING
LIKE THAT,
DON!

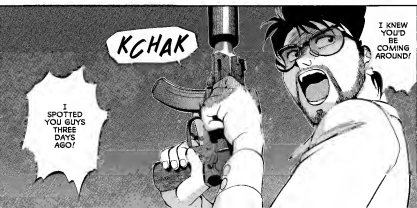
I BET
SHE
WALKED!

MAYBE
SHE'S
IN THE
CLINIC?











YEAH,
WELL,
YOUR
PALS
DIDN'T
KNOW
HOW TO
DUCK!

YOU SHOULD'A
RUN WHILE YOU HAD
THE CHANCE, KEN BOY!
I WAS SURE YOU'D
BE DEAD BY NOW.



NO
THANKS—
YOU
GET
THIS!

COME
AND
GET
ME!



SO
WATCHA
GONNA DO?!
WAIT ANY
LONGER, AND
SOMEONE'LL
COME
ALONG!



IT'S
GAS,
PAL!

AND
THESE
HERE
ARE
EXPLOSIVES*
SO YOU
TELL
ME WHAT'S
GONNA
HAPPEN!



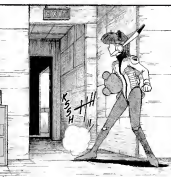
SPLASH

KANG



MAKE
YOUR
MOVE,
BUDDY!

*EXPLOSIVE ROUNDS: A HOLE IS DRILLED IN THE BULLET, PACKED WITH GUNPOWDER, AND SEALED WITH A PRIMER. YOU WON'T FIND THEM IN YOUR LOCAL AMMO SHOP!

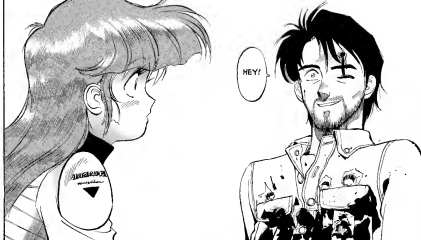












AS FAR AS
GRAY
AND HIS
CROWD IS
CONCERNED,
KEN TAKI'S
AS DEAD
AS A
DOORNAIL.



IT'S LINKED
TO A
REMOTE
SWITCH
ON THE
SCORPION.
SEE?

* SO YOU CAN STILL FEEL RECOIL, BUT THE BULLETS THEMSELVES DISINTEGRATE AFTER FIRING.

SORRY
IF I
SCARED
YOU,
MAY.



YOU...
YOU
JERK.



JERK!

CHAPTER 15



MEDICAL SHOT

SO GRAY
KNOWS THIS
"JOE HAMILL"
GUY WAS
REALLY KEN
TAKI? I SURE
HOPE HE
BELIEVES
IT.

HMM..."FOUR-
ALARM FIRE AT
STARBURG FILM
STUDIO IN LOS
ANGELES: SPECIAL
EFFECTS
TECHNICIAN
JOE HAMILL'S
SEVERELY BURNED
BODY FOUND
AT THE
SCENE..."

NO
SHIT
?!

THAT WAS THE
FIRST HIT MAN
GRAY SENT IN.
KEN WASTED HIM,
AND STASHED
THE BODY FOR
LATER.

SO WHO
WAS IT,
REALLY?
THE BODY,
I MEAN.

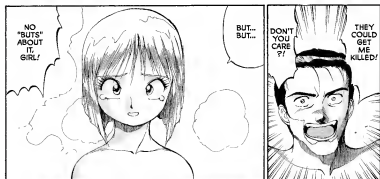
KEN HAD
IT ALL
FIGURED
OUT, SEE?

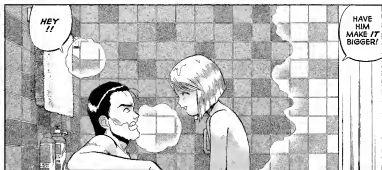
WAIT 'TIL
YOU HEAR
THE
REST!

YOU'RE
KIDDING.
YOU
MEAN HE
PLANNED
TO USE
THE FIRST
ASSASSIN
LIKE
THAT?





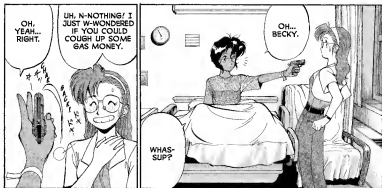








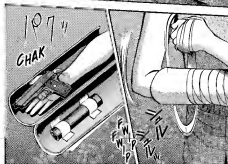














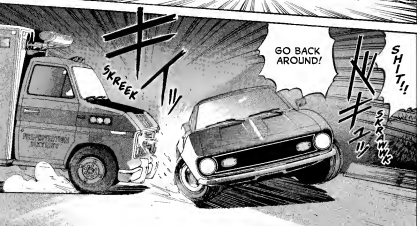


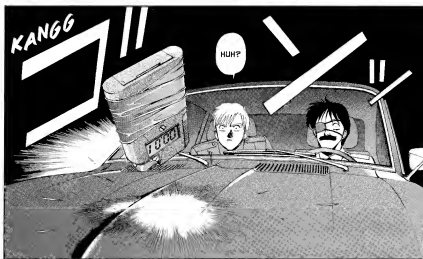
















BY THE WAY...
WHATEVER
HAPPENED
TO THOSE
OTHER TWO
GUYS?

AWE
AGE



...I FIRED
OFF ONE
SHOT ON
REFLEX,
AND AFTER
THAT
IT'S ALL
KINDA
FUZZY.

DON'T
ASK
ME...



GEEZ...I
WONDER
WHY
THEIR
CAR EX-
PLODED?

YEP!



...SO THEY
CAUGHT
TWO OF
GRAY'S
MEN LAST
NIGHT? ALL
SMASHED
UP?



AH!!

SO
WHATCHA
GONNA
DO WITH
THEM?

THEY'RE
STILL
LOCKED
UP IN THE
BASEMENT.

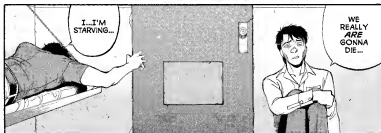
WHAT'S
GO
FORRY?

OH,
NOTHING.



I...I
FORGOT!

WHAT'S
WRONG,
BECKY?



I...I'M
STARVING...

WE
REALLY
ARE
GONNA
DIE...



CHAPTER 16 BEAN



WOW...

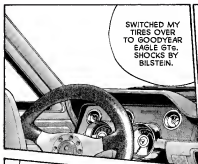


HEE
HEE
HEE



CAN'T WAIT
TO GIVE
IT SOME
RENAB!





SWITCHED MY
TIRES OVER
TO GOODYEAR
EAGLE GTs.
SHOCKS BY
BILSTEIN.



NEW
LEATHER
STEERING
WHEEL,
RECARO
SEATS TO
MATCH.



SINCE
WHEN
ARE YOU
ROLLING
IN CASH?

HOLD
ON A
SEC!

AND THE
PIECE DE
RESISTANCE,
A FULL
ENGINE
TUNE-UP!



I CAN'T
GET COLLISION
INSURANCE.
ROY--JUST P/L
AND P/D. I'M ON
EVERYBODY'S
BLACKLIST. "RALLY
THE WRECKER."
THEY CALL ME.

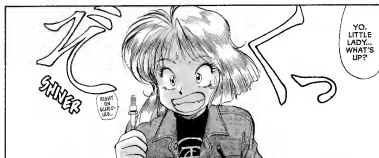
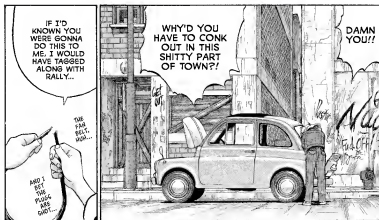
GEEZ...YOU
HAVE ALL THE
LUCK. I HAD
TO USE MY
INSURANCE TO
FIX MY BEETLE...
HELLO, RATE
RAISE CITY.

HE
OFFERED
TO PAY
FOR
EVERY-
THING,
IF I
DIDN'T
SUE.

REMEMBER
THE GIRL WHO
RAN OUT IN
FRONT OF ME
THAT NIGHT--THE
ONE THAT MADE
ME CRASH?
TURNS OUT
HER FATHER'S
REALLY RICH.









BROTHER,
HUH?



MY
BROTHER'LL
BE BACK
ANY
MINUTE
NOW.



N-NO
THANKS.
I'M
FINE.



I
KNOW
HER.

HEY!



BULLSHIT, KID.
THE DRIVER
SEAT'S ALL
THE WAY
FORWARD.

!!
YOU'RE
ALONE.



SHE USED TO
WORK IN THAT
WHOREHOUSE
IN CHINATOWN--
THE PURPLE
PUSSY!









DON'T
EXPECT
ME TO
FIX THE
TICKET IF
YOU GET
NAILED,
GIRL!

WHAT GOT
HER SO
EXCITED?

I'VE
HEARD
IT SO
MANY
TIMES
BEFORE...

I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT THAT
FAINT
SOUND
WAS!

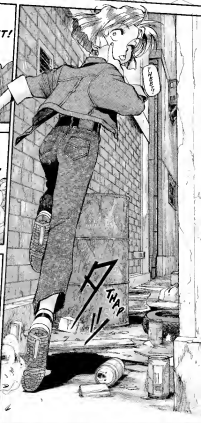
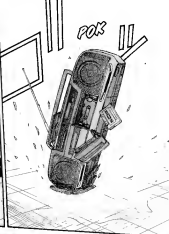
THAT
WAS A
GRE-
NADE!

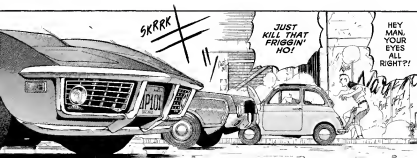
NOT A
BACKFIRE...
NOT A
GUNSHOT...

MIN-
NIE-
MAY!

FACTOR IN
THE WIND
DIRECTION.
AND IT HAS
TO BE THE
WEST SIDE.











IF I SQUEEZE
DOWN THERE,
THERE'S NO
WAY THOSE
BIG GUYS
CAN FOLLOW
ME.



HEH
HEH!

HEY, I
USED TO RUN
AROUND HERE
ALL THE TIME
WHEN I WAS
A KID...IT WAS
LIKE MY OWN
BACKYARD.



WE'VE
GOT THE
BITCH
NOW!

OKAY
BRAT--

WHA--?!
WHEN
DID THEY
PUT A
FENCE UP?!



SHAKKA

EH?













BEAN...?
BEAN
BANDIT?!

??

HEY,
I'LL
LADY.
BEEN
A
WHILE.



RALLY,
IT'S OKAY!
HE SAVED
ME!



BACK AWAY
FROM HER!
SLOWLY!



YOU
MIND
POINTING
THAT
THING
SOME-
WHERE
ELSE?



SAVED?
GUESS
YOU
COULD
PUT IT
THAT
WAY.

EH?



I DIDN'T
AIM TO
HELP YOUR
FRIEND.
IT JUST
TURNED
OUT THAT
WAY.

HEY, I JUST
KICKED
THE BUTTS
OF SOME
SLEAZY
PUNK WHO
THOUGHT
IT WAS FUN
TO HASSLE
A KID.



DON'T
THINK IT
MEANS
I OWE
YOU
ANY-
THING!

WHY'D
YOU
GET IN-
VOLVED
HERE?



NOT
SINCE
WE
PLAYED
"DISARM
THE
BOMB."
HEY?

HRMM...
IT
REALLY
HAS
BEEN A
LONG
TIME.





IT'S YOU
WHO'S
BEEN
HELPING
GRAY,
RIGHT?!

I'VE GOT A
QUESTION,
MR. BANDIT!

SO FIRST
YOU TAIL ME,
THEN YOU
CALL ME!
WHAT'S UP?



JUST
CALL
ME
BEAN!

HEY,
DROP
THE
"MISTER,"
GIRL.



YOU CALL YOURSELF
A **PROF!** WHEN
YOU DON'T EVEN
CARE IF SOMEONE'S
A VIOLENT CRIMINAL?
OR YOUR OWN
ENEMY? **WELL?!**

NO
COM-
MENT!

DAMN
YOU,
BEAN!



BESIDES,
ARE YOU
ANY BETTER,
**BOUNTY
HUNTER?!**

HEY,
MONEY
HEALS
ALL
WOUNDS.



I'D
DRIVE
A LITTLE
SLOWER
IF I
WAS
YOU,
GIRL.

WHAT
KIND OF
LAME
EXCUSE
IS
THAT?!

HELPING CRIMINALS
*BREAK OUT AND
BRINGING THEM*
IN SOUND LIKE
TWO DIFFERENT
THINGS TO ME!

SPEED
LIMIT

55

GO AHEAD,
THEN! TAKE
THE NEXT
CURVE AT
ONE-TWENTY!

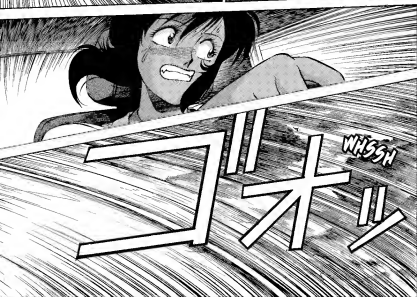
OH,
REALLY?
WHAT'S
WRONG,
BEAN?! 'FRAID A
GIRL'LL
CATCH
YOU?

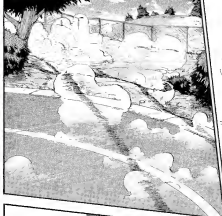
COME ON,
VINCENT.
A GUY LIKE
THAT CAN
RUN HIS
WHOLE
SYNDICATE
FROM BEHIND
BARS.

EH?

SKREEEE

ZIP 101





WELL, THAT'S
WHAT I GET
FOR CORNERING
ON BRAND
NEW TIRES...

OH, YEAH...
THEY WEREN'T
BROKEN IN YET.



JUST WAIT
UNTIL I'M
BACK IN
FORM,
BUDDY!

BEAN
BANDIT,
YOU RAT.



I'VE BEEN A GUNSMITH CAT SINCE I WAS A KID!! -Kenichi Sonoda

MAY'S ROOTS

AND THEY SELL THESE CTHL RIGHT?

I AM PRETTY SURE THESE WERE BIG ONES MADE WITH RED PAPER, AND SMALLER ONES, WRAPPED IN SPECKLED PAPER...



OH, NOW MAYBE CAME TOGETHER IN ONE BUNCH!

THE THING I LOVED ABOUT MY ROOTS WAS FIRE-CRACKERS!

DON'T WORRY-- I NEVER USED THEM ON DOGS OR CATS, KATY



I USED TO PLAY WITH THESE BY USING THEM TO BLOW UP SNAKES, FROGS, AND PRAYING MANTISES...

KON

...PACK A BUNCH OF THEM INTO AN EMPTY CAN, LIGHT THE FUSE AND THROW, AND THEY EXPLODE IN MID-AIR-- PAK WITH MY OWN HOMEMADE HAND GRENADE.

PONNN

I'D USE PVC PIPE THAT I FOUND TO LAUNCH EMPTY TIN CANS IN THE AIR, AND SOMETIMES...



COME ON!! BEING BORN A BOY MEANS YOU GOTTA DO THIS KINDA STUFF ONCE OR TWICE, RIGHT?!

-SONODA

RALLY'S ROOTS



WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I OFTEN BOUGHT METAL PELLET GUNS AND CAPS GUNS, BUT--

16 PACKS OF SILVER-COLORED PELLETS-- WHICH COST 9 YEN AT THE TIME-- THERE'D SOMETHING BE GOLD-COLORED PELLETS MIXED IN (I'M NOT MAKING THIS UP). ALSO, THERE WERE PELLETS SHAPED LIKE RUSSY BALLS AND STUFF.



BECAUSE THE PELLET AMMO WAS GRAVITY-FED, THERE HAD TO BE ROOM FOR THE PELLETS TO FALL INTO FROM THE MOUTH. SO THE PELLETS ACTUALLY SHOT OUT FROM HERE.

BUT WHEN IT CAME DOWN TO IT, THE ONE I MOST LIKED WAS THIS:

I'D DRAW THIS PIC FROM MY VAGUE REMOBY OF THE ACTUAL GUN. SO PLEASE, DON'T COUNT ON THIS BEING AN ACCURATE DEPICTION.

IT SHOT THESE LITTLE MIDOON-GREEN DISCS, ABOUT THE SIZE OF 1-YEN COINS, WHICH FLEW LIKE LITTLE SAUCERS! PEOPLE BORN BEFORE 1945 WOULD PROBABLY REMEMBER THESE RIGHT?



...BUT I REALLY, REALLY LOVED THOSE DISC GUNS.



...DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE OLD FOR THOSE?

UHE, YEAH...

BUT I DON'T THINK THEY SELL THEM ANYMORE...

This interview originally ran in Gunsmith Cats "Bonnie and Clyde," first printed October 1996. Some information, obviously, may no longer be accurate.

—ed.

KENICHI SONODA INTERVIEW

Name: KENICHI SONODA (not a pen name)

Nicknamed: "SONOYAN"

Born: OSAKA, JAPAN, December 13, 1962

Professional Background:

Came to Tokyo to seek his fortune at the age of twenty-one and promptly landed a job at Artmic where he was soon creating character designs for such films as *Gall Force* and *Bubblegum Crisis*. After leaving Artmic and becoming a freelance comics artist, in February of 1991 Sonoda exploded onto the pages of the popular manga magazine *Afternoon* with "Gunsmith Cats," a rollicking action story about a tough, female bounty hunter and her dangerous buddies who fight drug gangs and extortionists on the mean streets of Chicago. The series brought two of the toughest ladies in Japanese comics, gun aficionado Rally Vincent and the bomb freak Minnie-May Hopkins, to hungry readers, who have boosted sales of the subsequent *Gunsmith Cats* graphic novels past 200,000 copies each in Japan and spawned a series of original video animations (available in English from A. D. Vision).

Personal Stuff:

Sonoda got his motorcycle license at twenty. He prefers 100% malt for both his beer and whiskey. His collection of model air guns numbers over sixty, and his laserdisc* collection takes up over thirteen feet of shelf space. He owns several computers, such as an NEC 9827 and a Fujitsu/Towns MA., but only uses them to play computer games. He also collects "Mr. Bill" (from *Saturday Night Live*) merchandise. Women adore him. Sonoda is single and lives in Kichijoji, Japan.

Following is a conversation between Sonoda and Studio Proteus

Studio Proteus: How did a Tokyo-based manga artist wind up writing about women bounty hunters in Chicago?

Sonoda: Actually, it started with a single illustration. I had done an illustration of two women with guns—one tall, one tiny—for an anthology of illustrations put out by a fanzine publisher friend. I'd been thinking of starting up a new manga series, but when I went to pitch some ideas to my editors, they pounced on that illustration instead and said, "Why don't you flesh this idea out?" And that's how it all started. I chose Chicago in part because so many action manga have been set in New York already, but also because of the reputation Chicago has even all the way over in Japan—you know, the city of Al Capone, prohibition gun battles, and tough cops.

Studio Proteus: I'm fascinated by this. So you had this one drawing of two women with guns—how much did you know about them already? Or did you have to start from scratch to come up with the story?

Sonoda: I find that when I draw someone's face, I get a sense of the whole personality behind the drawing. I think it's mostly in the eyes. With these two women, who later became Rally and Minnie-May, their eyes were very different, and I just kind of knew what they were like. Minnie-May has that etched look to her eyes, something very sharp and acid, and that's the kind of person she is. She's really much tougher in her own way than Rally.



For the story itself, you can largely thank your own Hollywood action films. I've always really enjoyed American gun-action movies, films like *The French Connection*, or even on the comic side *The Blues Brothers*. In fact, when I started *Gunsmith Cats*, I was way into *The Blues Brothers* and had seen it a bunch of times. So that was a big influence.

At that time, I still hadn't actually been to Chicago. You can do book research, but I didn't get to Chicago until later. And as for the idea of bounty hunters and the police procedural stuff, in the beginning, I was flying by the seat of my pants. I knew you had bounty hunters in America, I knew these two women were really good with guns and explosives, and the storyline created itself. Of course, I have an outline in my head for where the series is going to go, so Rally and Minnie don't just run off with the story; although they do have a life of their own.

Studio Proteus: Anyone who reads *Gunsmith Cats* gets a real education in firearms. You put tremendous care into rendering the weapons Rally and her opponents use. How do you do your research?

Sonoda: Guns have been my biggest passion for years. But of course, in Japan it's almost totally against the law to own any kind of firearm. That makes it a lot harder. I've been buying air guns and model guns for years; I've got a big collection by now. And I read three different Japanese magazines on firearms every month. *Guns Magazine* is the most comprehensive. When I'm drawing a scene with a gun in it I'll use the magazines, or if I have a model of that particular firearm, I'll keep it on my writing desk. I have assistants help me with the series too, so often I'll have to plunk a replica down in front of them and, say see, do it this way. But of course, air guns and model guns aren't exactly replicas of the originals. So I'm careful to draw to the true original, not the reproductions.

Since I can't really own weapons in Japan it was a real handicap. I didn't get to actually live fire anything until I went to Animecon '91 in San Jose, which was sponsored by Gainax and Studio Proteus. We went to a firing range and blazed away with a whole bunch of different weapons. Since then, I've had a chance to fire at ranges in the U.S. several more times.

Studio Proteus: And those high-performance cars Rally loves?

Sonoda: It's the same (laughs). I don't even have a driver's license! I read a lot, and study a lot. Right now I don't even have a bike, although I used to ride a Kawasaki GPZ, and I had a Yamaha SRX for a while, too.

Studio Proteus: Who do you like better, Rally or Minnie-May?

Sonoda: Rally's my heroine, so she has to be really good at what she does. Rally's a tough case—she gets things done, and she holds things together. I like her. But at the same time, she's sort of intimidating. So in that sense, I guess I'm a little more fond of Minnie-May. She's a great character to draw—lots of fun. And while she's strong-willed like Rally, she has her weaknesses.

To be perfectly honest, though, I feel more comfortable creating stories in the *Riding Bean*** world where I've got a leading man. No matter how much I like Rally and Minnie, it's hard for me, as a guy, to get inside their heads. *Bean Bandit* is a guy I can identify with much more personally. No matter how much they say Japanese women have gotten tougher in recent years, you don't meet many people like Rally and Minnie-May in Japan, or anywhere else. They're a challenge!

** The laserdisc is an archaic analog optical disc storage medium from the late seventies/early eighties. Films continued to be released on LD in Japan until 2001.*

*** *Bean Bandit* is the star of *Riding Bean* video, available from AnimEgo. He also appears in *Gunsmith Cats* comics.*



SKETCH GALLERY



RALLY

*This character gallery originally appeared in Gunsmith Cats
"Bonnie and Clyde," first printed October 1996.*

—ed.





**MINNIE-
MAY**



MISTY



**BEAN
BANDIT**



BECKY



KENICHI SONODA PRESENTS

DARK HORSE MANGA™

カンスミスキャッツ

Volume 1

GUNSMITH CATS

岡田健一

Vol.
1



The long-awaited return of Gunsmith Cats arrives with the first volume of "Burst," hitting the shelves February 2007!

Rally, Minnie-May, Becky, and Bean! Back together again!



KENICHI SONODA PRESENTS

GUNSMITH CATS

R E V I S E D 1 E D I T I O N

Rally and Minnie-May are two teen girls running a weapons shop in Chicago...but they have a side business as bounty hunters! Though their main task is to hunt down runaway criminals with bounty on their heads, they somehow always end up undertaking risky jobs and getting themselves into major messes!

RALLY ガンスミスキャッツ ***VINCENT***

Rally is a bounty hunter who loves guns. She's a top-notch marksman and a master gunsmith. Her beloved ride is a Shelby Cobra GT500.

GRAPHIC NOVEL/MANGA/ACTION/CRIME

